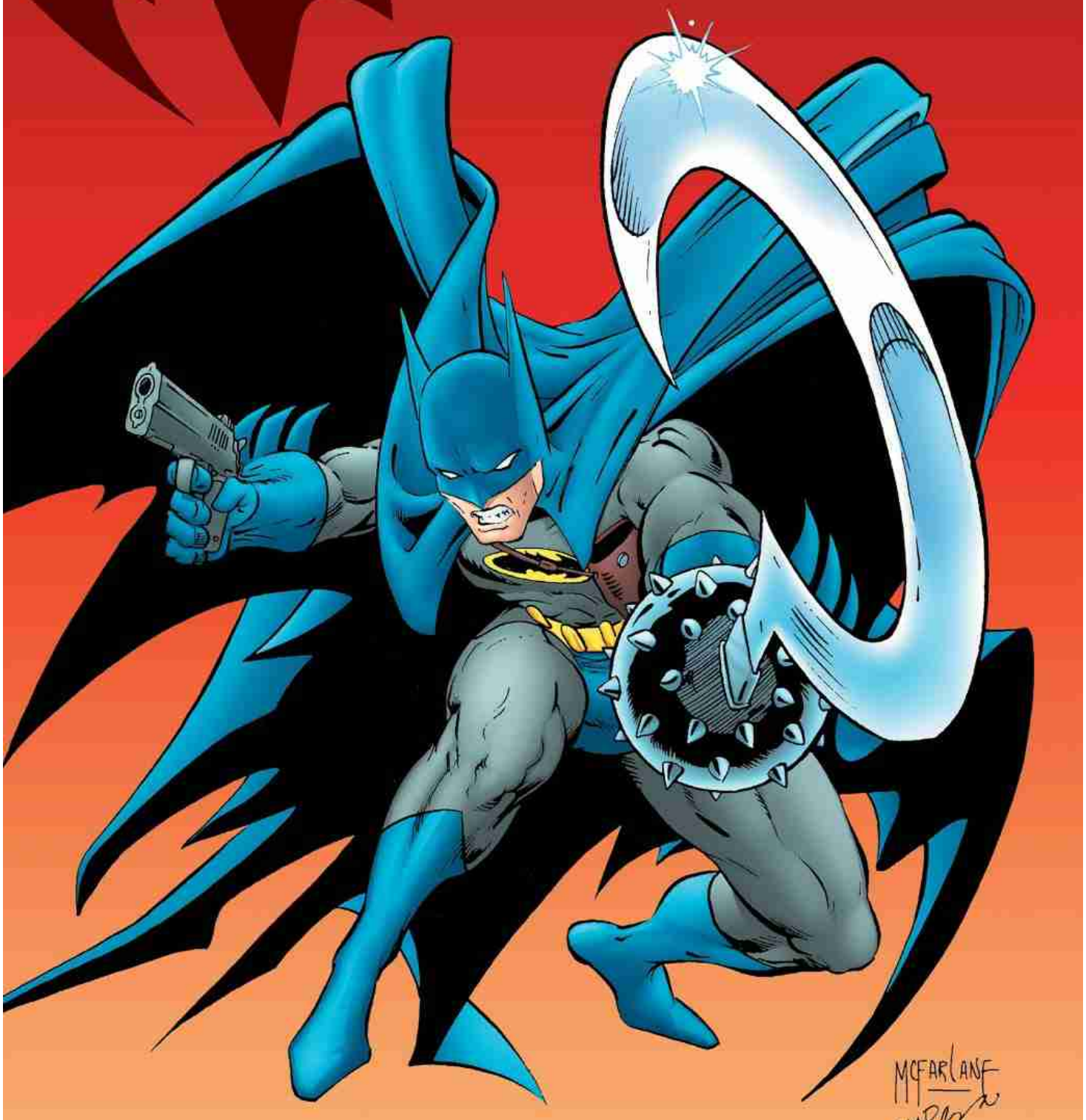
MIKE W. BARR × ALAN DAVIS × TODD McFARLANE

BATMAN

YEAR TWO

× THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY DELUXE EDITION ×



BATMAN

YEAR TWO

× THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY DELUXE EDITION ×

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BATMAN

YEAR TWO

× THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY DELUXE EDITION ×

written by
× MIKE W. BARR ×

pencils by
× ALAN DAVIS ×
× TODD McFARLANE ×

inks by
× PAUL NEARY × MARK FARMER ×
× ALFREDO ALCALA × PABLO MARCOS ×

letters by
× RICHARD STARKINGS × TODD KLEIN ×
× AGUSTIN MAS × JOHN COSTANZA ×

colors by
× STEVE OLIFF × GLORIA VASQUEZ × TOM ZIUKO ×

cover art by
× TODD McFARLANE and ALLEN PASSALAQUA ×

Batman created by BOB KANE with BILL FINGER

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BATMAN: YEAR TWO – THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY DELUXE EDITION

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A LOOK AT BATMAN: YEAR TWO SEVERAL YEARS LATER

A Retro-Intro by MIKE W. BARR

Look, I'm as surprised as you are.

When artist Alan Davis and I took the creative reins of DETECTIVE COMICS, we began with a series of tales that did much to explore the relationship between Batman and Robin. These proved popular, so we continued.

Then one day editor Denny O'Neil told me we'd be producing a story already entitled BATMAN: YEAR TWO to follow a story by Frank Miller and David Mazzucchelli, BATMAN: YEAR ONE. ONE would deal with the early days of the Dark Knight's career, while TWO would take place slightly later in Batman's life.

Despite my (often overstated) reputation as a malcontent, I readily agreed to this. True, it meant interrupting the Batman/Robin tales Alan and I—and the readers—so liked, but exploring Batman's early years and the formation of his relationships with many of his modern allies was an intriguing idea.

Though I did not consult with Frank Miller on his story for YEAR ONE, I had no doubt the stories of ONE and TWO would be vastly different. Though Frank and I both love Batman, we love the character for very different reasons. Frank loves to strip Batman of his familiar accoutrements and see what makes him tick. But I, a Batman fan literally for as long as I can remember, love much of the appurtenances the character has acquired over the years—the Batcave, the giant penny therein, Ace the Bat-Hound, the one-man helicopters christened "whirly-bats," and dozens of other plot devices and equipment he has accreted over the years. These include Robin the Boy Wonder, an addition to the BATMAN feature I feel has contributed immeasurably to the longevity of the strip.

Still, though the Boy Wonder and most of the above-mentioned plot devices would be missing from YEAR TWO, I signed on. I already had decided to take some cues from the first elaboration of Batman's origin from BATMAN #47 (June-July, 1948). This story was produced by Batman's creators, Bob Kane and Bill Finger, so as far as I'm concerned it's as close to the "truth" as we're ever going to read.

But YEAR TWO had to do more than revisit—or even reinterpret—the past; it had to bring something new to the table. I've loved Batman's "rogue's gallery" since childhood and had long been wanting to introduce a new, worthy villain to that august body. I had been wanting to do this for a long

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time—every creator wants to see if he can stand with the greats—and, given the concept of "the Reaper," Alan delivered a simple, stunning visual that has made the character a formidable challenge for the Dark Knight every time he appears...no matter who is inside the armor.

So YEAR TWO was proceeding apace. Alan and I were in sync with the story, which was different enough from YEAR ONE to let it stand alone. I was already clearing space on my bookshelf for the seemingly inevitable trade paperback that would collect the series.

Ah, the best-laid plans... Not long after finishing Part One, Alan quit. His cover for that chapter had been changed without his consent, or, even worse, his knowledge, and he felt he couldn't continue under those circumstances. I agreed, but decided to stay with the project, to make sure that at least some of its initial spirit remained in place.

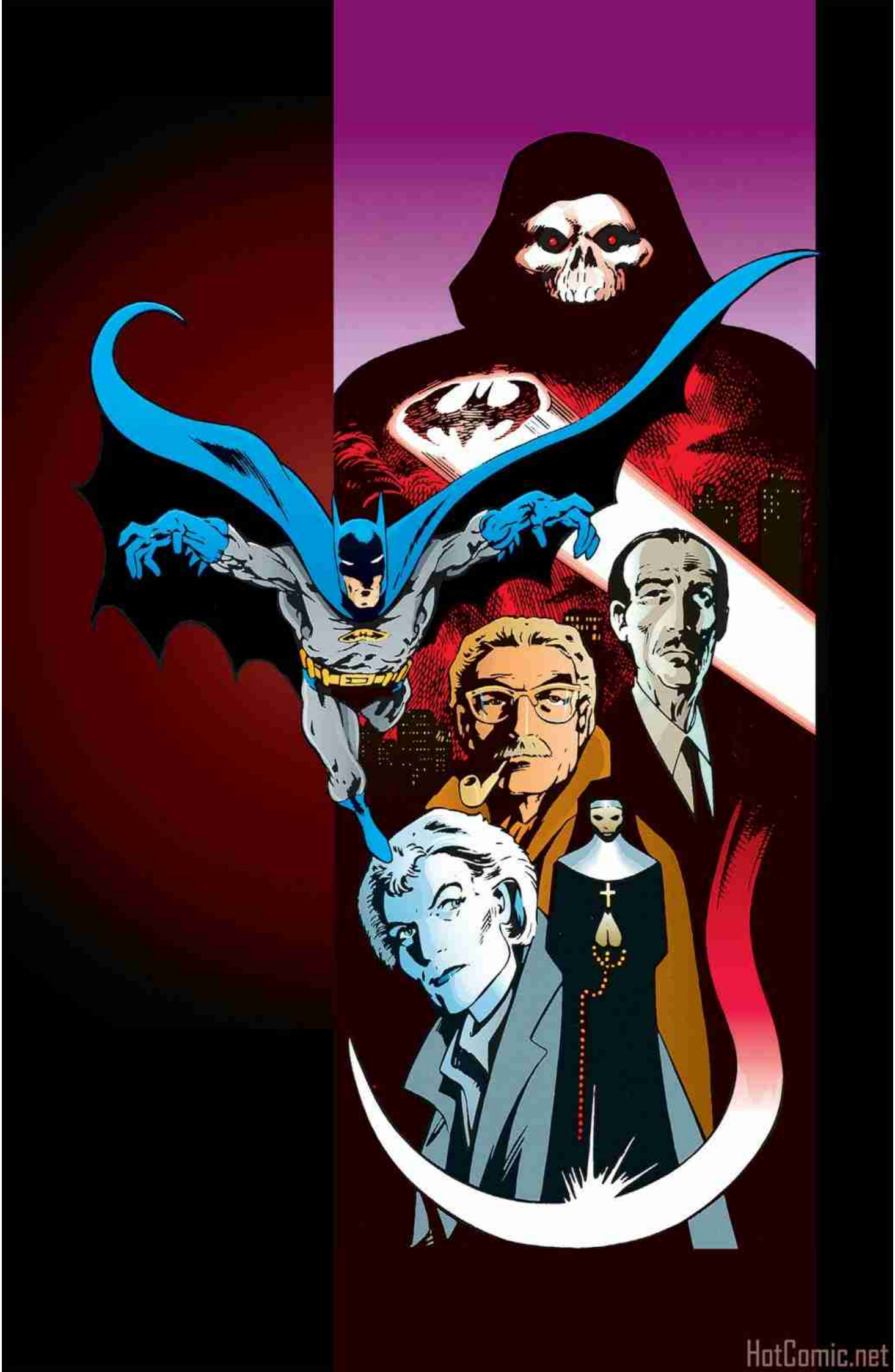
YEAR TWO would continue, of course. Todd McFarlane, best known then as the penciller of INFINITY, INC., but soon to become famous as the creator of *Spawn*, stepped into the breach to pencil parts two through four. Todd has drawn Batman from the scripts of only two writers, Frank Miller and me. Pretty good company for a lower-middle-class kid from Ohio.

I've said this before, but it bears repeating: it would be difficult to find two artists who were more dissimilar than Alan Davis and Todd McFarlane, especially in their depictions of Batman. Alan's version of the Dark Knight is a manta ray, merging with the night and swimming effortlessly through it in search of prey, while Todd's version is a mass of broken glass, impaling his foes. The character is so versatile that he can handle virtually any rendering.

The one drawback to Todd assuming the artistic reins of YEAR TWO—well, two, if you consider the fact that Alan wasn't able to continue—came when I broached the seemingly inevitable subject of collecting YEAR TWO in a trade paperback, as had become the fashion. A DC executive (no longer with the firm) told me emphatically that a TPB of YEAR TWO was impossible because the story had been drawn by two different artists. My reply that the two artists were Alan Davis and Todd McFarlane fell on deaf ears, and the story went uncollected for years until, to my surprise, DC relented and scheduled to put YEAR TWO between two covers. Despite several printings, I continue to be surprised whenever it's again collected.

Which brings us, albeit briefly, to BATMAN: FULL CIRCLE. Alan agreed to return for this one-shot, conceived as a sequel to YEAR TWO, and came back at the peak of his considerable powers. It remains my favorite BATMAN story; if you've never read it, I'm certain it will become one of yours.

—MWB 9/17



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FEAR THE REAPER

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written by

× MIKE W. BARR ×

pencils by

× ALAN DAVIS ×

inks by

× PAUL NEARY ×

letters by

× RICHARD STARKINGS ×

colors by

× STEVE OLIFF ×

with

× GLORIA VASQUEZ/OLYOPTICS ×

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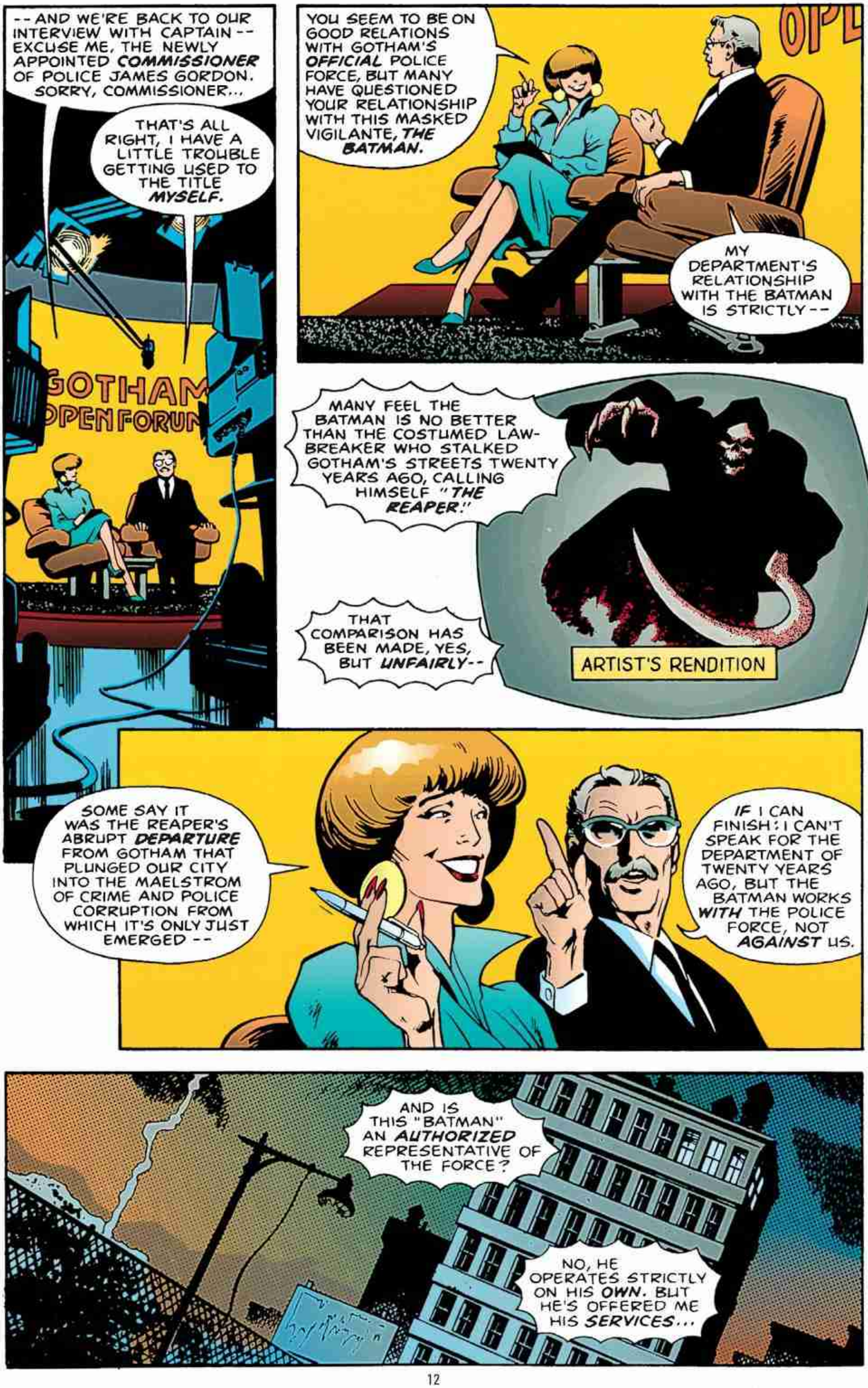
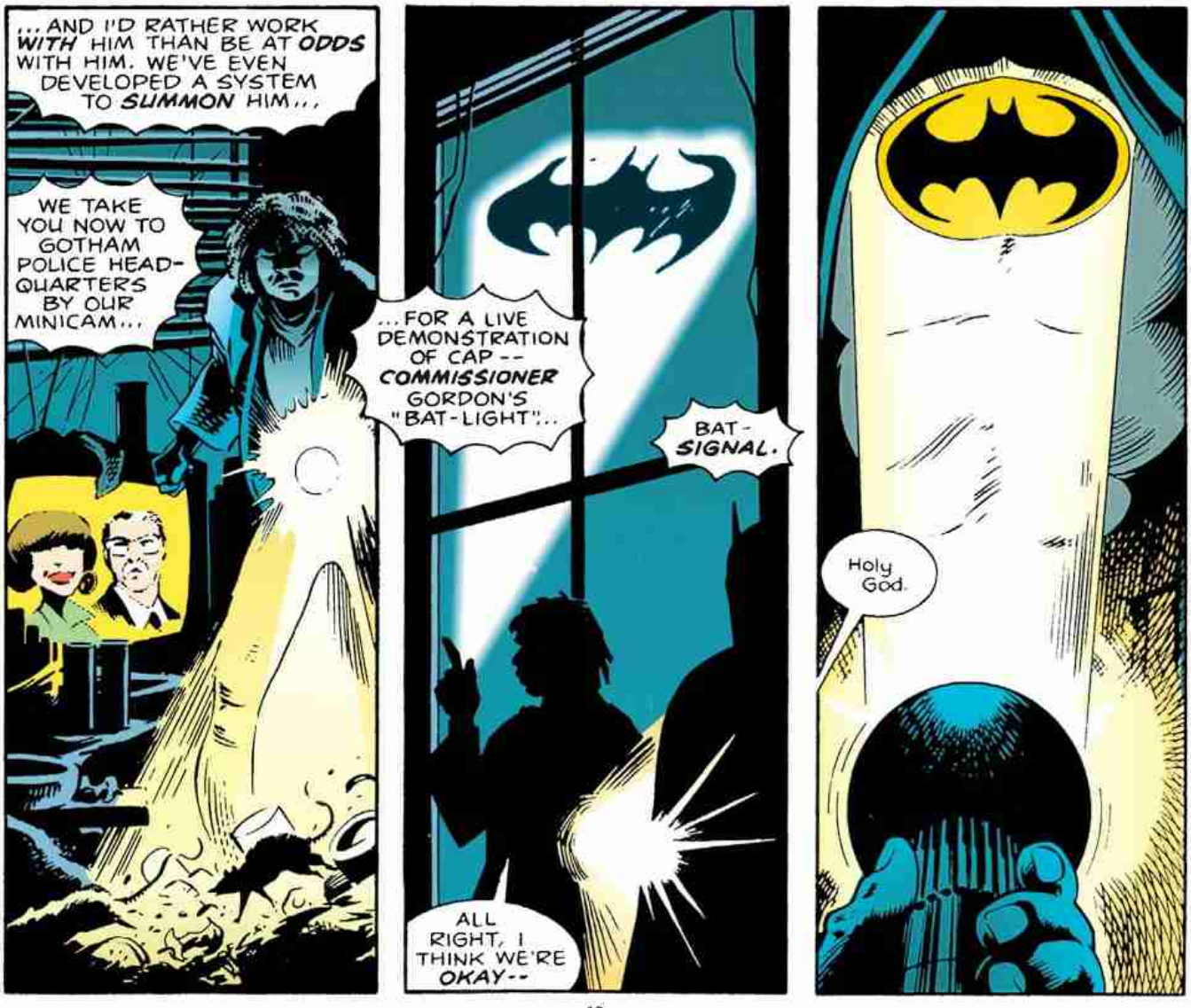

-- AND WE'RE BACK TO OUR INTERVIEW WITH CAPTAIN -- EXCUSE ME, THE NEWLY APPOINTED COMMISSIONER OF POLICE JAMES GORDON. SORRY, COMMISSIONER...
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, I HAVE A LITTLE TROUBLE GETTING USED TO THE TITLE MYSELF.
GOTHAM OPEN FORUM
YOU SEEM TO BE ON GOOD RELATIONS WITH GOTHAM'S OFFICIAL POLICE FORCE, BUT MANY HAVE QUESTIONED YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THIS MASKED VIGILANTE, THE BATMAN.
MY DEPARTMENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BATMAN IS STRICTLY --
MANY FEEL THE BATMAN IS NO BETTER THAN THE COSTUMED LAW-BREAKER WHO STALKED GOTHAM'S STREETS TWENTY YEARS AGO, CALLING HIMSELF "THE REAPER."
THAT COMPARISON HAS BEEN MADE, YES, BUT UNFAIRLY--
ARTIST'S RENDITION
SOME SAY IT WAS THE REAPER'S ABRUPT DEPARTURE FROM GOTHAM THAT PLUNGED OUR CITY INTO THE MAELSTROM OF CRIME AND POLICE CORRUPTION FROM WHICH IT'S ONLY JUST EMERGED --
IF I CAN FINISH: I CAN'T SPEAK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF TWENTY YEARS AGO, BUT THE BATMAN WORKS WITH THE POLICE FORCE, NOT AGAINST US.
AND IS THIS "BATMAN" AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FORCE?
NO, HE OPERATES STRICTLY ON HIS OWN. BUT HE'S OFFERED ME HIS SERVICES...

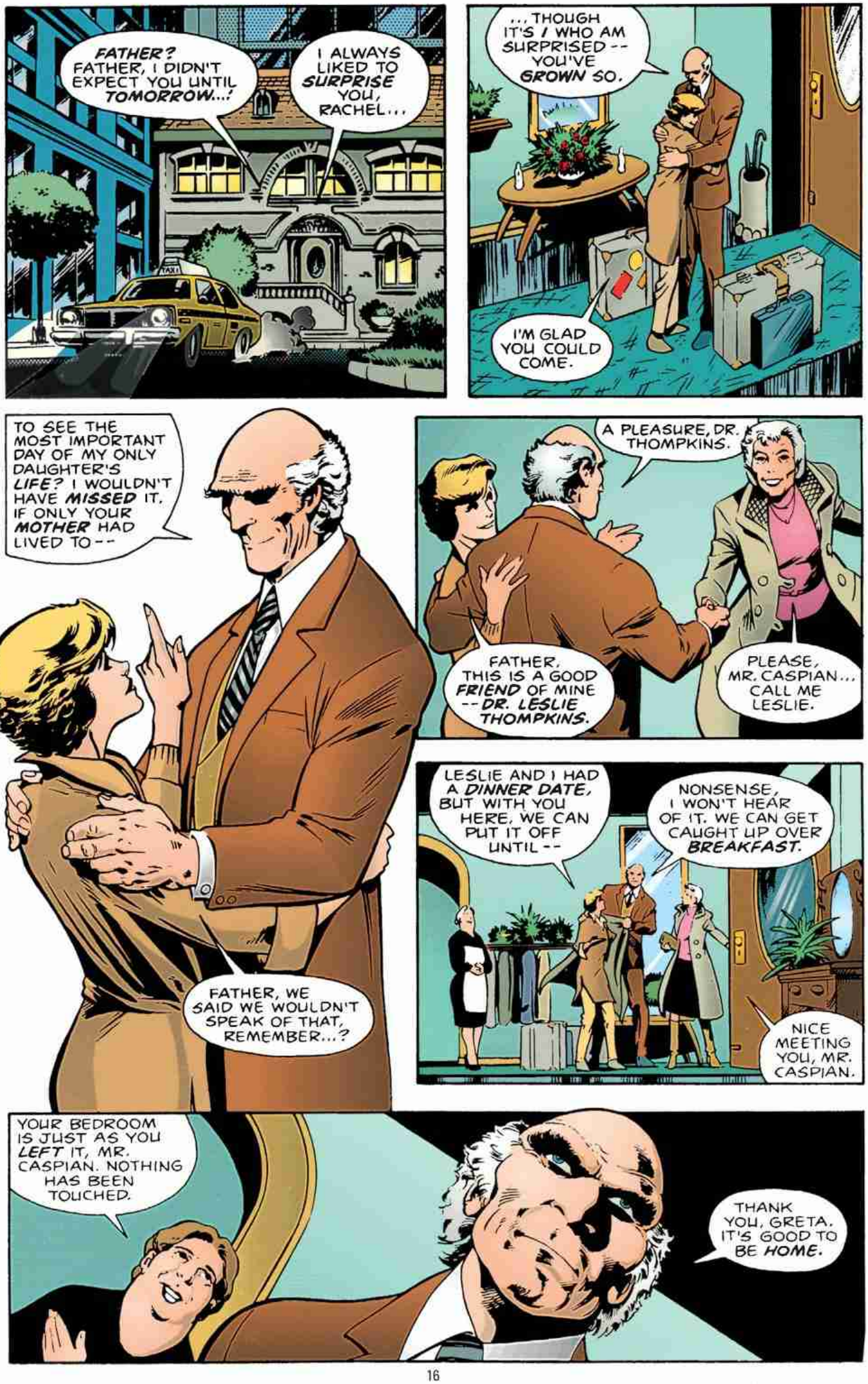
...AND I'VE ACCEPTED. QUITE FRANKLY, I FEEL HE'D BE OUT THERE ANYWAY...
HEY, DID ONE A YOU LEAVE THE TV ON?

YEAH, I DID. MAKES PEOPLE THINK THERE'S SOMEBODY HOME. YOU GONNA TURN ON THE LIGHTS, OR ARE WE GONNA PLAY HELEN KELLER?
JUST A SECOND. JUST WANNA MAKE SURE WE'RE ALONE.


...AND I'D RATHER WORK WITH HIM THAN BE AT ODDS WITH HIM. WE'VE EVEN DEVELOPED A SYSTEM TO SUMMON HIM...
WE TAKE YOU NOW TO GOTHAM POLICE HEADQUARTERS BY OUR MINICAM...
...FOR A LIVE DEMONSTRATION OF CAP -- COMMISSIONER GORDON'S "BAT-LIGHT"...
BAT-SIGNAL.
ALL RIGHT, I THINK WE'RE OKAY--
Holy God.

...I... I THOUGHT WE WAS TOO LITTLE FOR YOU TO BOTHER WITH--!
NO CRIME IS...
... AND NO CRIMINAL.
KLUNK
--MAKE GOTHAM CITY A SAFER PLACE TO LIVE...
AGGGH!
KKLOOOSH
BANG
BANG
SPWEEEE
NICE GOING BOYS...

...YOU JUST KILLED THE LIGHT... AND THAT WAS YOUR ONLY WEAPON AGAINST ME.
Oh, JEEZ...
DON'T PANIC, YOU DOPE! WE GOT GUNS--
GUNS? IF YOU'VE PUT YOUR FAITH IN THOSE...
...YOU'VE ALREADY LOST.
BANG BANG
WHUD
THUNK-T
WHAK
I'D STAY AND WAIT FOR THE POLICE, BOYS...
unhhhhh
...BUT I'VE GOT OTHER THINGS TO DO.


FATHER? FATHER, I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU UNTIL TOMORROW...!
I ALWAYS LIKED TO SURPRISE YOU, RACHEL...
...THOUGH IT'S I WHO AM SURPRISED -- YOU'VE GROWN SO.
I'M GLAD YOU COULD COME.
TO SEE THE MOST IMPORTANT DAY OF MY ONLY DAUGHTER'S LIFE? I WOULDN'T HAVE MISSED IT, IF ONLY YOUR MOTHER HAD LIVED TO --
FATHER, WE SAID WE WOULDN'T SPEAK OF THAT, REMEMBER...?
A PLEASURE, DR. THOMPKINS.
FATHER, THIS IS A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE -- DR. LESLIE THOMPKINS.
PLEASE, MR. CASPIAN... CALL ME LESLIE.
LESLIE AND I HAD A DINNER DATE, BUT WITH YOU HERE, WE CAN PUT IT OFF UNTIL --
NONSENSE, I WON'T HEAR OF IT. WE CAN GET CAUGHT UP OVER BREAKFAST.
NICE MEETING YOU, MR. CASPIAN.
YOUR BEDROOM IS JUST AS YOU LEFT IT, MR. CASPIAN. NOTHING HAS BEEN TOUCHED.
THANK YOU, GRETA. IT'S GOOD TO BE HOME.

IT'LL TAKE DOUBLE OVERTIME TO KEEP THE MEN WORKING THROUGH THE NIGHT, MR. WAYNE.
THEN DO IT, CAMERON...
WAYNE FOUNDAT BUILDIN
...DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO BRING THIS IN AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.
HELLO, LESLIE.
HELLO, BRUCE. HOW'S THE CONSTRUCTION COMING?
SLOWER THAN I'D HOPED, BUT QUICKER THAN PREDICTED. THE PENTHOUSE IS GIVING US A FEW PROBLEMS, BUT WE'LL SOLVE THEM.
THE PENTHOUSE? WHO'D WANT TO LIVE ALL THE WAY UP THERE?
YOU, I'D HOPED.
ME? BRUCE, THAT'S SWEET, BUT--
YOU'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT A PLACE OF YOUR OWN, AND--
BUT WAY UP THERE? MY PATIENTS WOULDN'T COME NEAR A NEIGHBORHOOD LIKE THIS.
NOT IN THE DAYTIME, NO. LESLIE, YOU CAN'T--
:A-HEM.:
WHERE ARE MY MANNERS? RACHEL CASPIAN, THIS IS BRUCE WAYNE. RACHEL IS DOING THE CHARITABLE WORK I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT, BRUCE.
ORDINARILY, MY SECRETARY HANDLES ALL SUCH MATTERS...

"...BUT THIS TIME, I'LL MAKE AN EXCEPTION."
SO, WHY DO YOU SPEND YOUR TIME AIDING THE POOR, MISS CASPIAN...?

TOO MUCH TIME ON YOUR HANDS, OR A GUILTY CONSCIENCE?
BRUCE--
IT'S ALL RIGHT, LESLIE. NEITHER REASON, MR. WAYNE...
...I--I KNOW THIS WILL SOUND VERY OVERBLOWN-- BUT I'M CONCERNED WITH EVIL AND ITS INFLUENCE ON THE WORLD...

...AND THE ONLY WAY I KNOW TO FIGHT IT IS BY LEARNING ALL I CAN ABOUT THE HUMAN SOUL... LEARNING HOW EVIL TAKES ROOT THERE, AND GROWS.

I'M SORRY... I KNOW I MUST SOUND LIKE SOME SORT OF BARGAIN BASEMENT PHILOSOPHER--
NOT AT ALL, MISS CASPIAN...

...SHALL WE ORDER NOW?

THANK YOU, MR. WAYNE... FOR DINNER AND THE CONTRIBUTION.
MY PLEASURE, MISS CASPIAN...
I'M AFRAID NOT, MR. WAYNE.
...MAY I SEE YOU AGAIN? I'VE TWO TICKETS FOR THE SEASON PREMIERE OF THE GOTHAM BALLET COMPANY, AND--
IS THERE SOMEONE ELSE?
IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING...
... I TAKE MY FINAL VOWS IN A FEW DAYS.
VOWS...?
YES, MR. WAYNE...
...I'M JOINING THE ORDER OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY-- I'M GOING TO BECOME A NUN.
KLIK
IS MY FATHER IN, GRETA?
NO, MISS CASPIAN...

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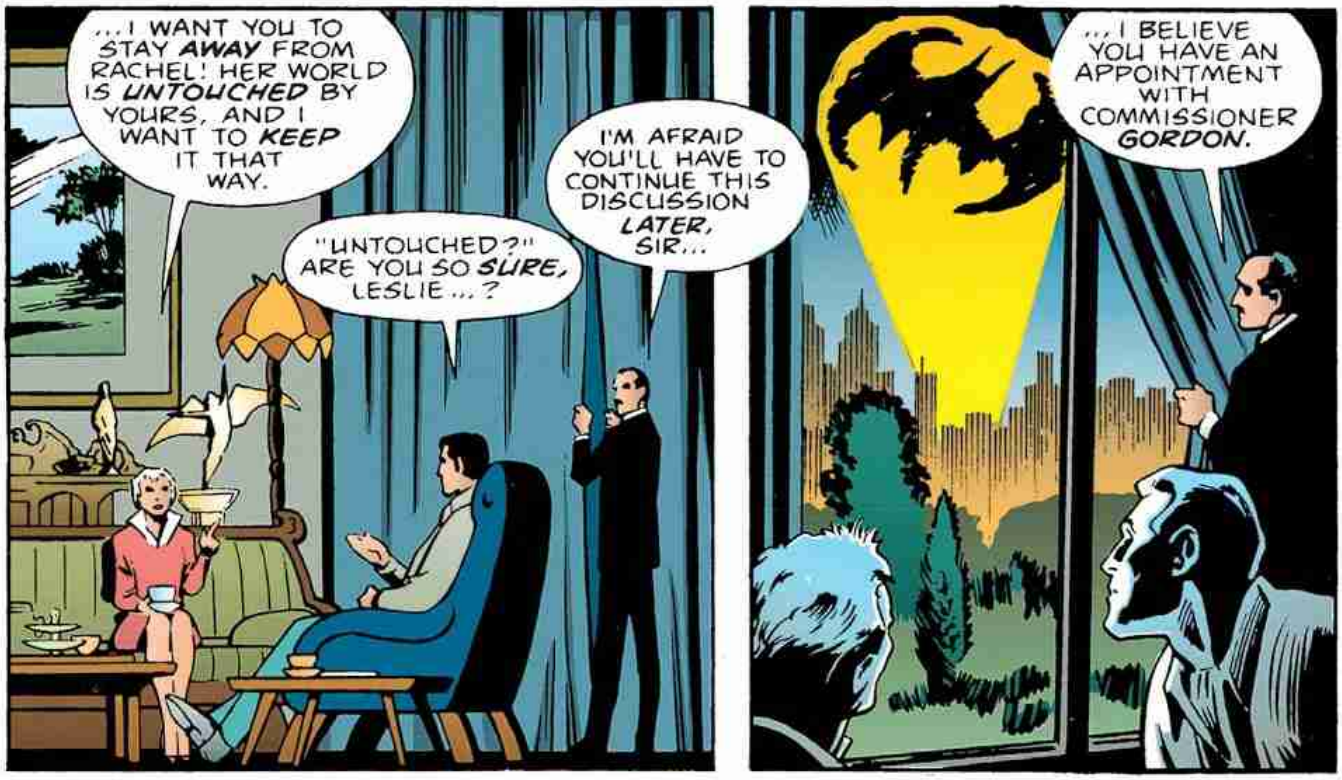
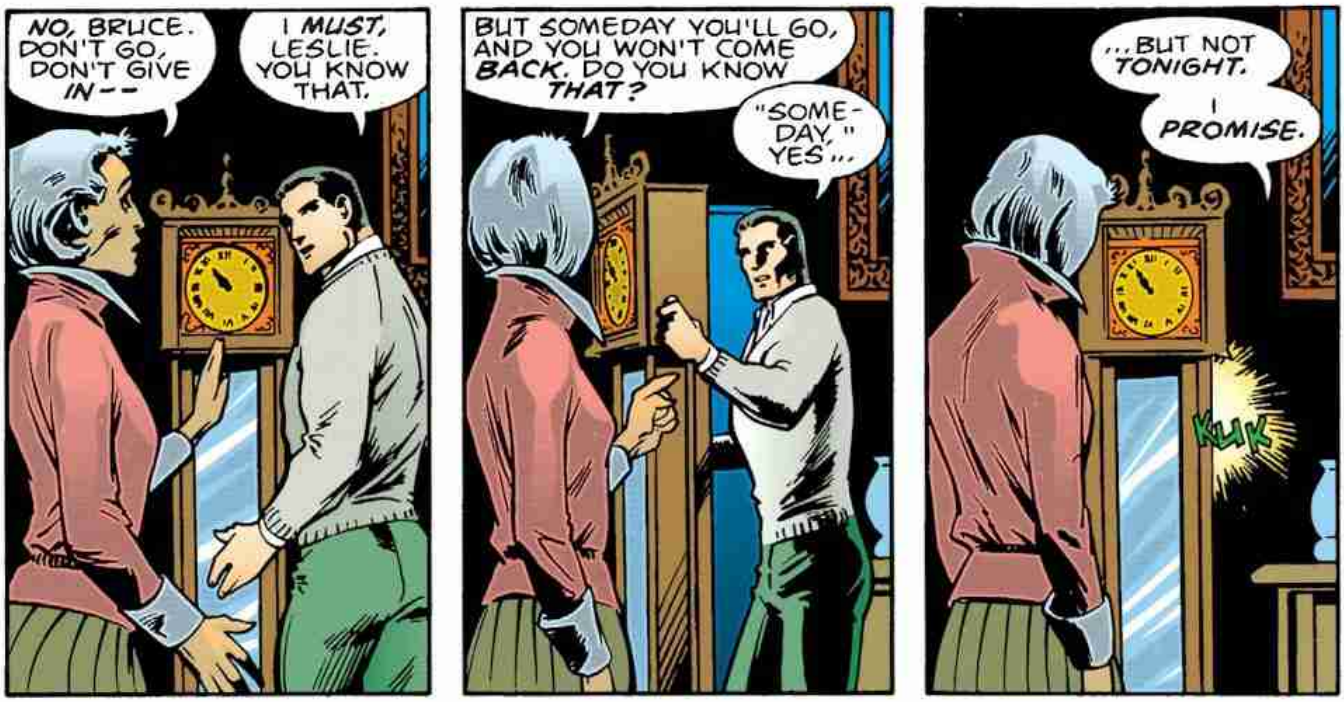
RELEASE HER.
KAKTIKT
AW, HELL, IT'S--

-- WHO IS THAT?
YOU DO NOT KNOW ME, FOR I ASSUMED MY WORK DONE. BUT I KNOW NOW, MY WORK IS NEVER DONE.
WHO AM I? TO KNOW ME IS TO KNOW FEAR...
GET BACK...
FEAR -- THE REAPER!
SLOSSH
GAHHHH!
YOU CUT HIM --!
I HAVE KILLED HIM...
...AND YOU SHALL SOON FOLLOW HIM IN DEATH.
STAY OUTTA HIS WAY --!
CALLOW YOUTH! THERE ARE MANY DOORS TO THE REALM OF DEATH...

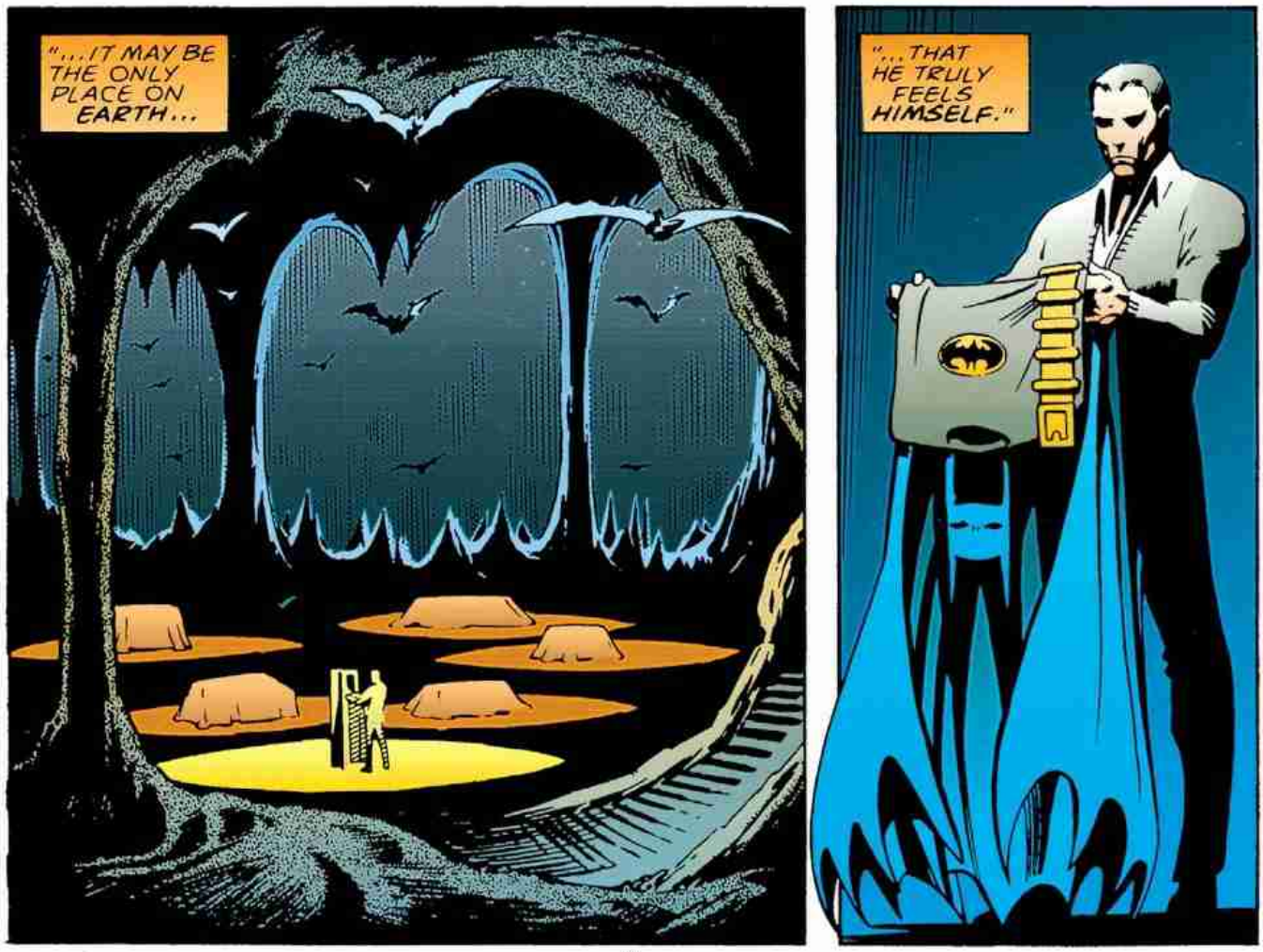
...AND THE REAPER HOLDS THE KEYS TO THEM ALL.
KLIK
BANG BANG
NO... PLEASE--!
YOU HAVE NAUGHT TO FEAR. TELL THE WORLD THAT THE REAPER HAS RETURNED...
...AND WILL SAVE THIS CITY-- WITH ITS CONSENT, OR WITHOUT.

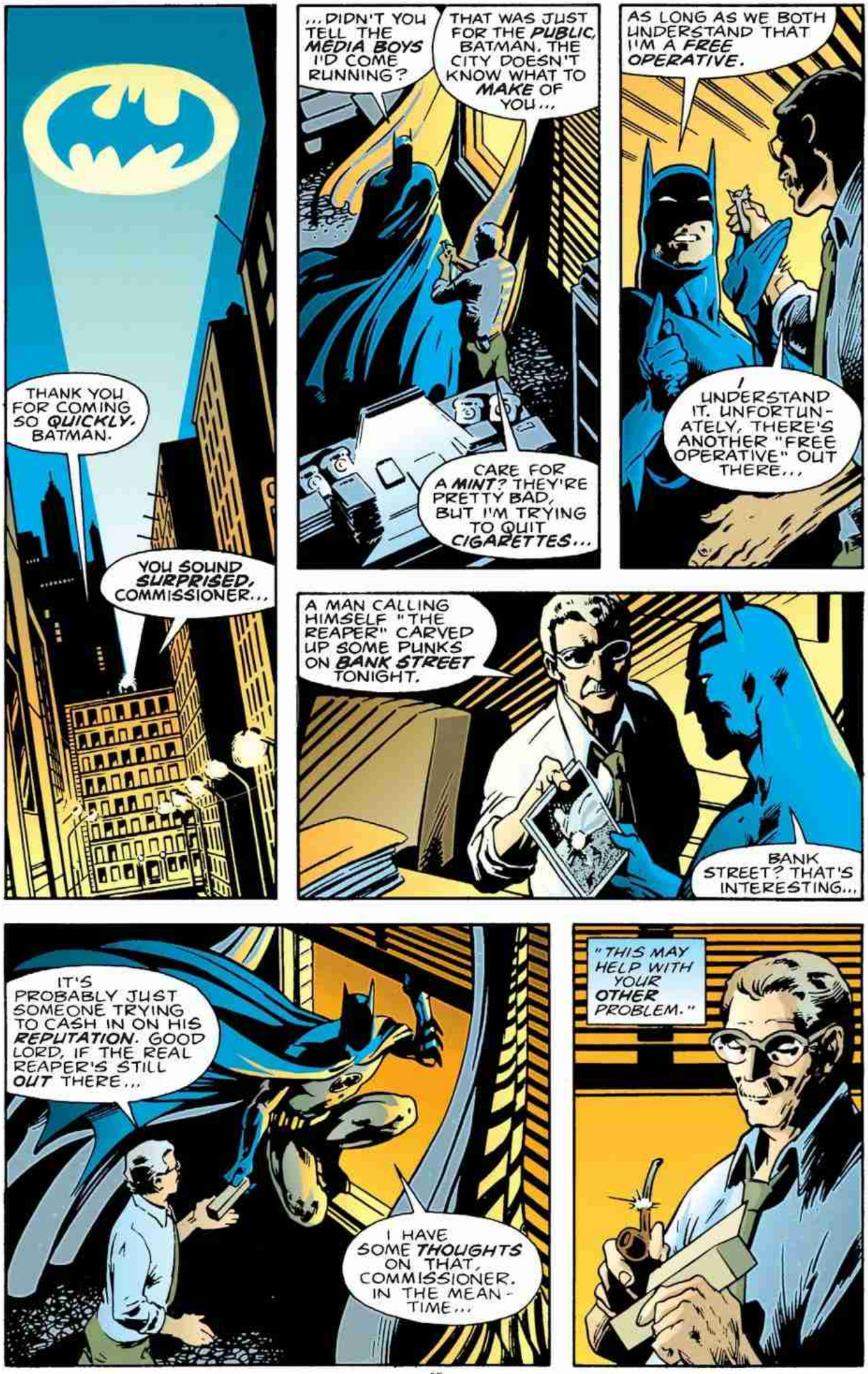
HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN RACHEL CASPIAN, LESLIE?
LET'S STOP THIS RIGHT NOW, BRUCE...


...I WANT YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM RACHEL! HER WORLD IS UNTOUCHED BY YOURS, AND I WANT TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.
"UNTOUCHED?" ARE YOU SO SURE, LESLIE...?
I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO CONTINUE THIS DISCUSSION LATER, SIR...
...I BELIEVE YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH COMMISSIONER GORDON.


NO, BRUCE. DON'T GO, DON'T GIVE IN--
I MUST, LESLIE. YOU KNOW THAT.
BUT SOMEDAY YOU'LL GO, AND YOU WON'T COME BACK. DO YOU KNOW THAT?
"SOME-DAY," YES...
...BUT NOT TONIGHT.
I PROMISE.
KLIK

WHAT'S IT LIKE DOWN THERE, ALFRED? WHAT HOLD DOES IT HAVE OVER HIM?
I THINK, MISS LESLIE...


"...IT MAY BE THE ONLY PLACE ON EARTH...
"...THAT HE TRULY FEELS HIMSELF."


THANK YOU FOR COMING SO QUICKLY, BATMAN.
YOU SOUND SURPRISED, COMMISSIONER...
...DIDN'T YOU TELL THE MEDIA BOYS I'D COME RUNNING?
THAT WAS JUST FOR THE PUBLIC, BATMAN. THE CITY DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF YOU...
CARE FOR A MINT? THEY'RE PRETTY BAD, BUT I'M TRYING TO QUIT CIGARETTES...
AS LONG AS WE BOTH UNDERSTAND THAT I'M A FREE OPERATIVE.
I UNDERSTAND IT. UNFORTUNATELY, THERE'S ANOTHER "FREE OPERATIVE" OUT THERE...
A MAN CALLING HIMSELF "THE REAPER" CARVED UP SOME PUNKS ON BANK STREET TONIGHT.
BANK STREET? THAT'S INTERESTING...
IT'S PROBABLY JUST SOMEONE TRYING TO CASH IN ON HIS REPUTATION. GOOD LORD, IF THE REAL REAPER'S STILL OUT THERE...
I HAVE SOME THOUGHTS ON THAT, COMMISSIONER. IN THE MEAN-TIME...
"THIS MAY HELP WITH YOUR OTHER PROBLEM."

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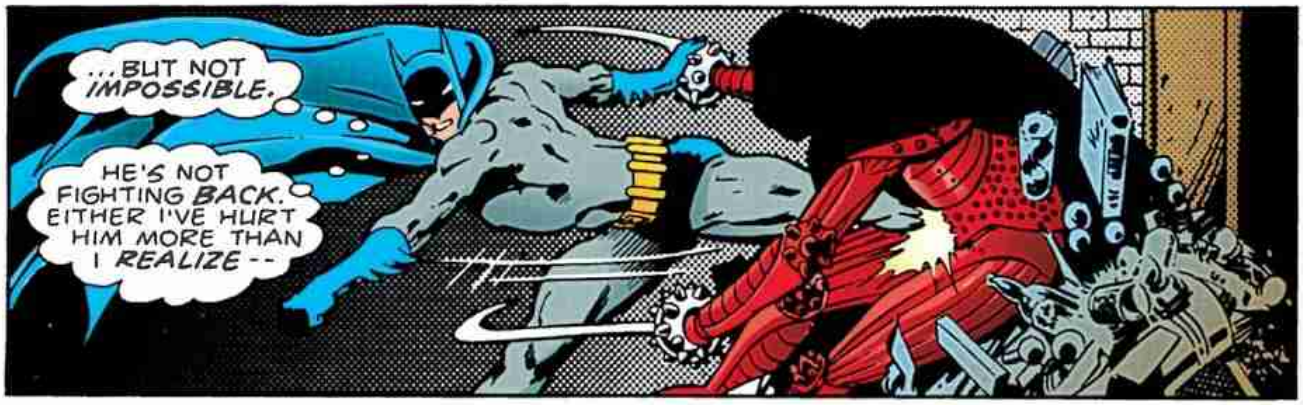
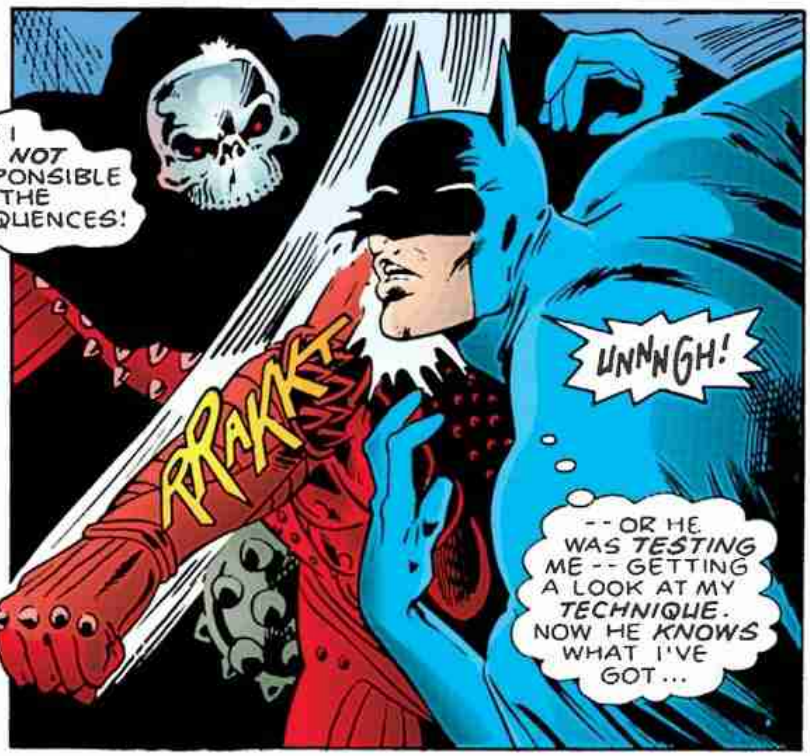
GORDON DOESN'T BELIEVE -- OR DOESN'T WANT TO BELIEVE -- THAT THIS NEW REAPER IS THE ORIGINAL...
...BUT IT'S SIGNIFICANT THAT HIS REAPPEARANCE WAS ON BANK STREET, A FASHIONABLE HOUSING DISTRICT TWENTY YEARS AGO, DURING THE REAPER'S FIRST CRUSADE...
...SO HE MIGHT SHOW UP HERE ON SUTTER LANE. TWO DECADES AGO, THIS WAS AN ELEGANT ROW OF SHOPS...
...BUT TODAY, IT CATERS TO A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT CLIENTELE. IT MAY BE THAT --
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, MAN...?
...NO LAW AGAINST TALKIN' TO A GUY --
OH GOD, HE'S A COP --!
WOMAN, MY SATISFACTION IS DERIVED FROM PURGING THE CITY OF SUCH AS YOU...
KAKLIKT
...OF MAKING YOU FEAR -- THE REAPER!
EEEEEEEK

THUD
WHO DARES--?
THE BATMAN, Eh? THEY SAY YOU CONTINUE THE FIGHT I BEGAN. IF SO, PROVE IT NOW -- STAND ASIDE.
IF YOUR "FIGHT" IS WHOLESALE SLAUGHTER...
...THEN WE'RE LESS ALIKE...
THUNK!
...THAN YOU COULD EVER HOPE TO UNDERSTAND!
LEATHER ARMOR, Eh? THAT'LL MAKE THIS TOUGHER...





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YOU BEGAN THIS FIGHT, BATMAN... ARE YOU AFRAID TO FINISH IT...?

ARE YOU BEGINNING TO FEAR -- THE REAPER?
KAKLIKT

MISSED! HE MOVES MORE QUICKLY IN THAT ARMOR THAN I --

HAVE NO CONCERN -- SOON YOU WILL BE BEYOND PAIN!
SLSSSH
AGGGH!

THE BELT. SOME SMOKE CAPSULES MAY SLOW HIM DOWN --
WHOOOSH
I HAVE SEEN MORE DARKNESS THAN YOU WOULD READILY BELIEVE, MY FOE...

...DO NOT EXPECT YOUR PARLOR TRICKS TO DETER ME!
SHAKK

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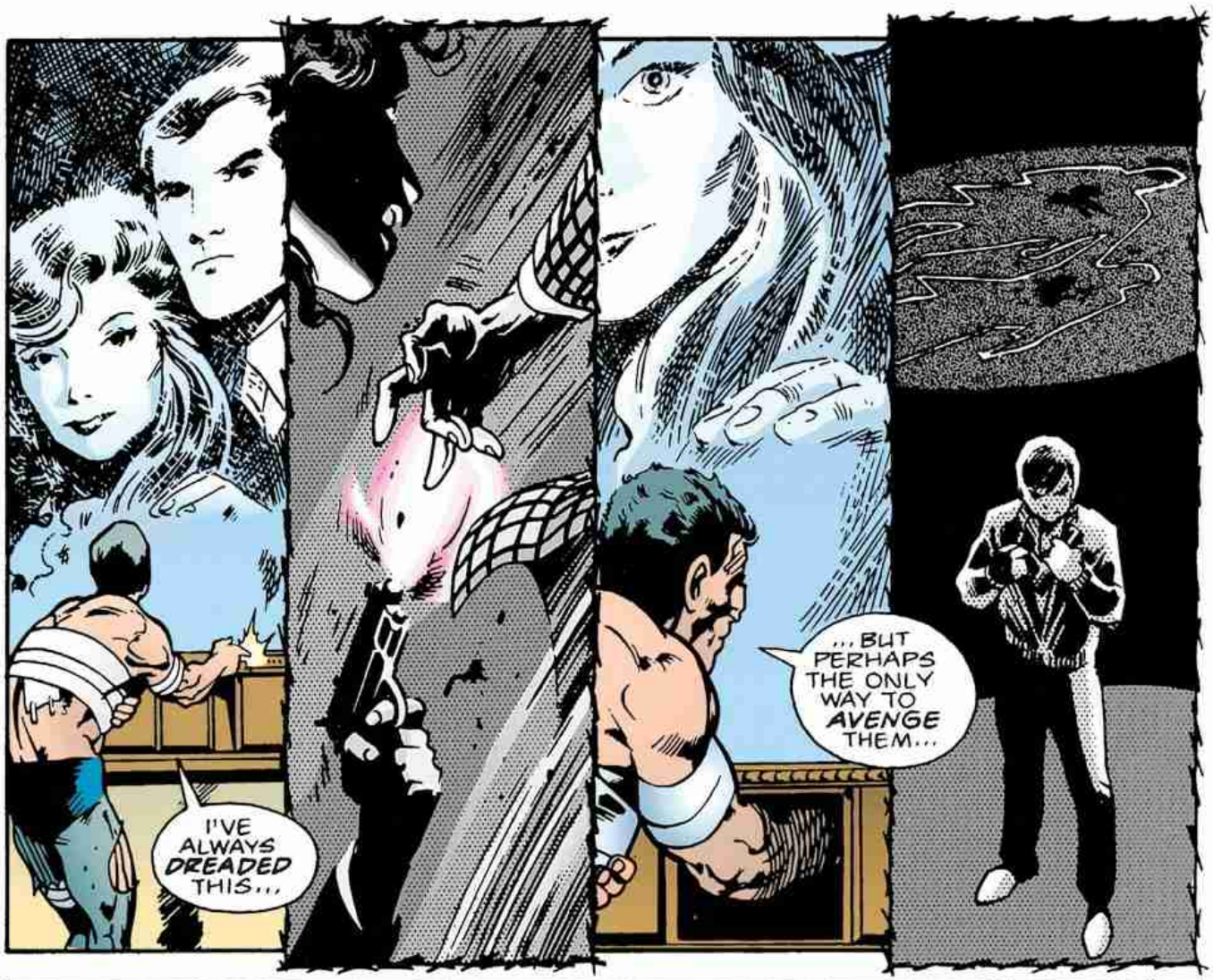
...MASTER BRUCE...?
L'E STILL, BRUCE, DON'T TRY TO...

I MADE IT, LESLIE... I KEPT MY PROMISE...
JUST BARELY. NOW, YOU CAN'T--

I USED EVERY-THING I HAD... ALL MY SKILL, ALL MY STRENGTH... AND IT STILL WASN'T ENOUGH.
BRUCE, YOU'LL START BLEEDING AGAIN...


I'VE ALWAYS DREADED THIS...
... BUT PERHAPS THE ONLY WAY TO AVENGE THEM...

...IS TO FIGHT MY ENEMY ON HIS OWN TERMS...
...TO FIGHT THE KIND OF MEN WHO KILLED THEM WITH THE WEAPON THAT MADE ME WHAT I AM...
... THE GUN THAT TOOK THEIR LIVES.

DEAL WITH THE DEVIL

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written by

× MIKE W. BARR ×

pencils by

× TODD McFARLANE ×

inks by

× ALFREDO ALCALA ×

letters by

× AGUSTIN MAS ×

colors by

× STEVE OLIFF ×

with

× GLORIA VASQUEZ/OLYOPTICS ×

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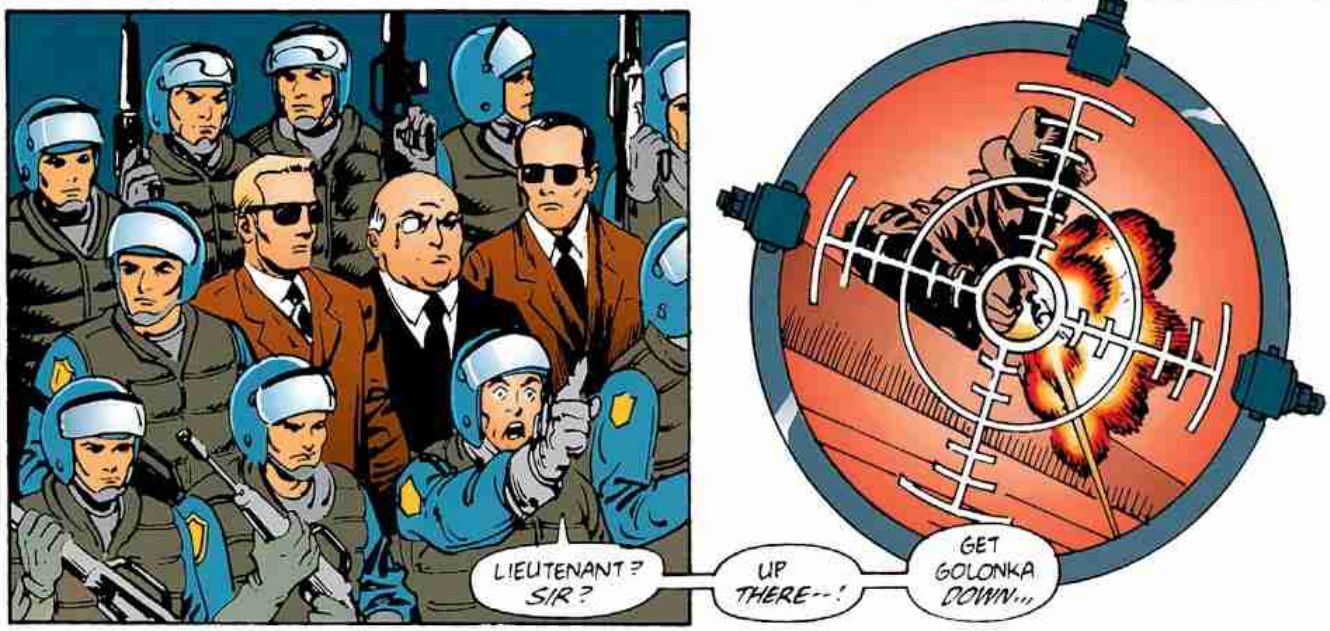
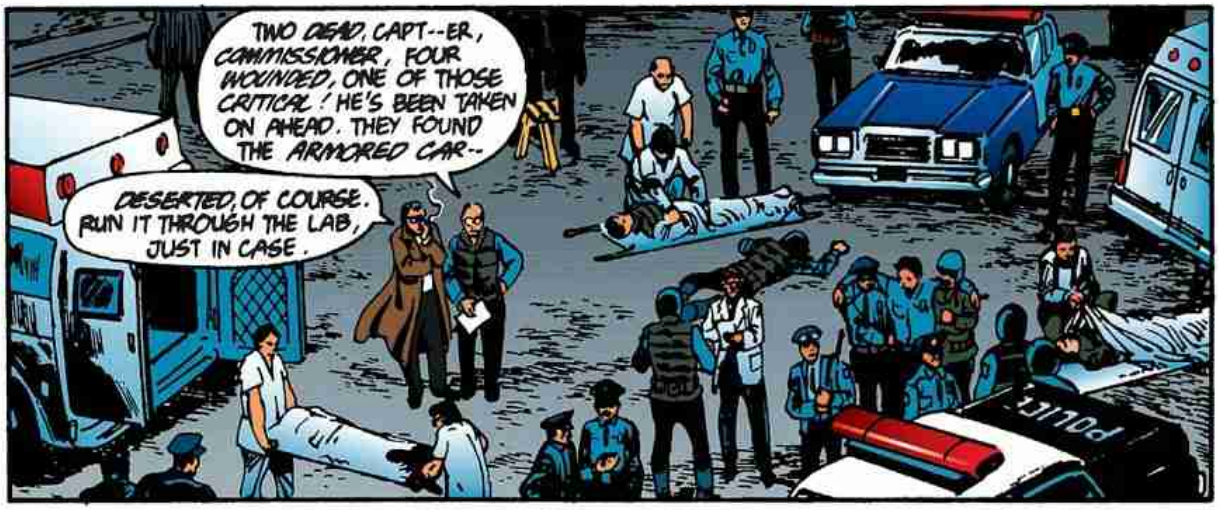
A GRAY AND MISTY DAWN...
THIS AIN'T MY REGULAR SHIFT, LIEUTENANT. I HOPE WE'RE GETTIN' OVER-TIME FOR THIS!
TAKE IT UP WITH THE CAPTAIN. ALL I KNOW...
GOTHAM CITY CRIMINAL DETENTION CENTER

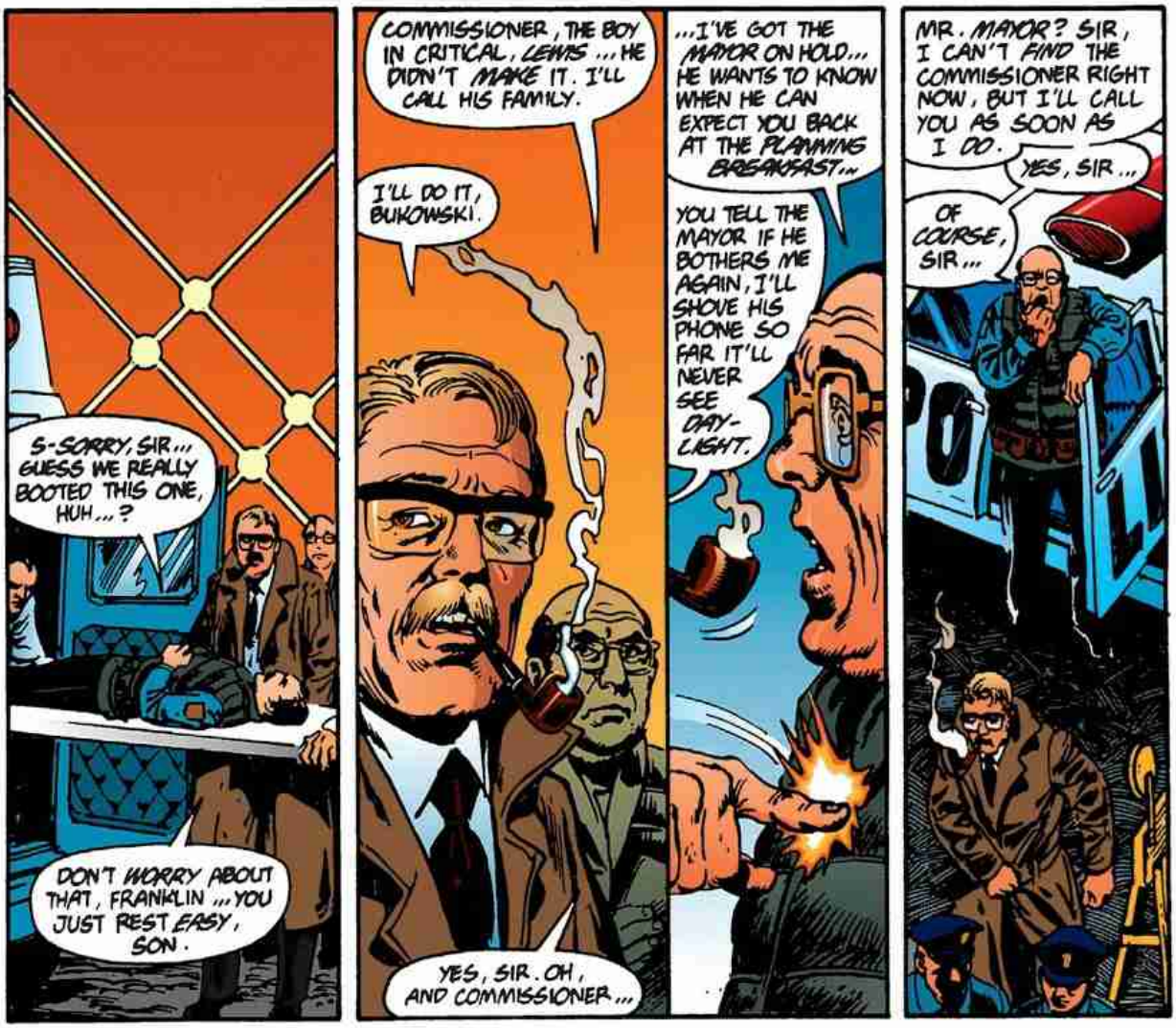
...IS THAT THE BRASS WANTS TO GET BIG WILLIE GOLONKA TO PRISON BEFORE SCHEDULE, TO AVOID THE USUAL MEDIA CIRCUS.
SOME SENTENCE. FOR FIVE YEARS BIG WILLIE RUNS HIS MOBS FROM INSIDE INSTEAD OF OUT.
TELL ME ABOUT IT...


LIEUTENANT? SIR?
UP THERE--!
GET GOLONKA DOWN...

GOTHAM CITY DETENTION
...ALL UNITS, FIRE!
ZINNNG
BANG
SPA-TANNG
SPA-TANNG
ARE YOU MEN BLIND? HE'S STILL FIRING!
GPD
I'D SWEAR I HIT HIM, LOOT--HE MUST HAVE NERVES OF STEEL!
ZINNG
SPANNNG
THIS IS BUKOWSKI! WE'RE PINNED DOWN--
--NEED SOME BACKUP... AND QUICK!
=GASP= H-HEY--
IN THE LAST MOMENTS OF YOUR LIFE, YOU AT LAST KNOW WISDOM, WILLIAM GOLONKA...

... FOR YOU HAVE LEARNED TO FEAR... THE READER!
GA-TANNG
GA-TANNG
GPD
TO PROTEC
AND TO SERV
POLICE
GET HIM--!
BANG
YOU MUST LEARN-- THOSE WHO KNOWINGLY PROTECT EVIL...
...MUST SUFFER THE SAME PENALTY AS THOSE WHO COMMIT IT!
AGGGGGH!
LEARN THIS LESSON WELL--I HAVE NO URGE TO REPEAT IT!
RUNNGH
OFFICERS DOWN, SEND MEDICS! AND GET AN ALL-POINTS OUT ON AN ARMORED CAR, LICENSE NUMBER...


TWO DEAD, CAPT--ER, COMMISSIONER, FOUR WOUNDED, ONE OF THOSE CRITICAL! HE'S BEEN TAKEN ON AHEAD. THEY FOUND THE ARMORED CAR--
DESERTED, OF COURSE. RUN IT THROUGH THE LAB, JUST IN CASE.
POLICE


S-SORRY, SIR... GUESS WE REALLY BOOTED THIS ONE, HUH...?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT, FRANKLIN... YOU JUST REST EASY, SON.
COMMISSIONER, THE BOY IN CRITICAL, LEWIS... HE DIDN'T MAKE IT. I'LL CALL HIS FAMILY.
I'LL DO IT, BUKOWSKI.
YES, SIR. OH, AND COMMISSIONER...
...I'VE GOT THE MAYOR ON HOLD... HE WANTS TO KNOW WHEN HE CAN EXPECT YOU BACK AT THE PLANNING BREAKFAST...
YOU TELL THE MAYOR IF HE BOTHERS ME AGAIN, I'LL SHOVE HIS PHONE SO FAR IT'LL NEVER SEE DAY-LIGHT.
MR. MAYOR? SIR, I CAN'T FIND THE COMMISSIONER RIGHT NOW, BUT I'LL CALL YOU AS SOON AS I DO.
YES, SIR...
OF COURSE, SIR...

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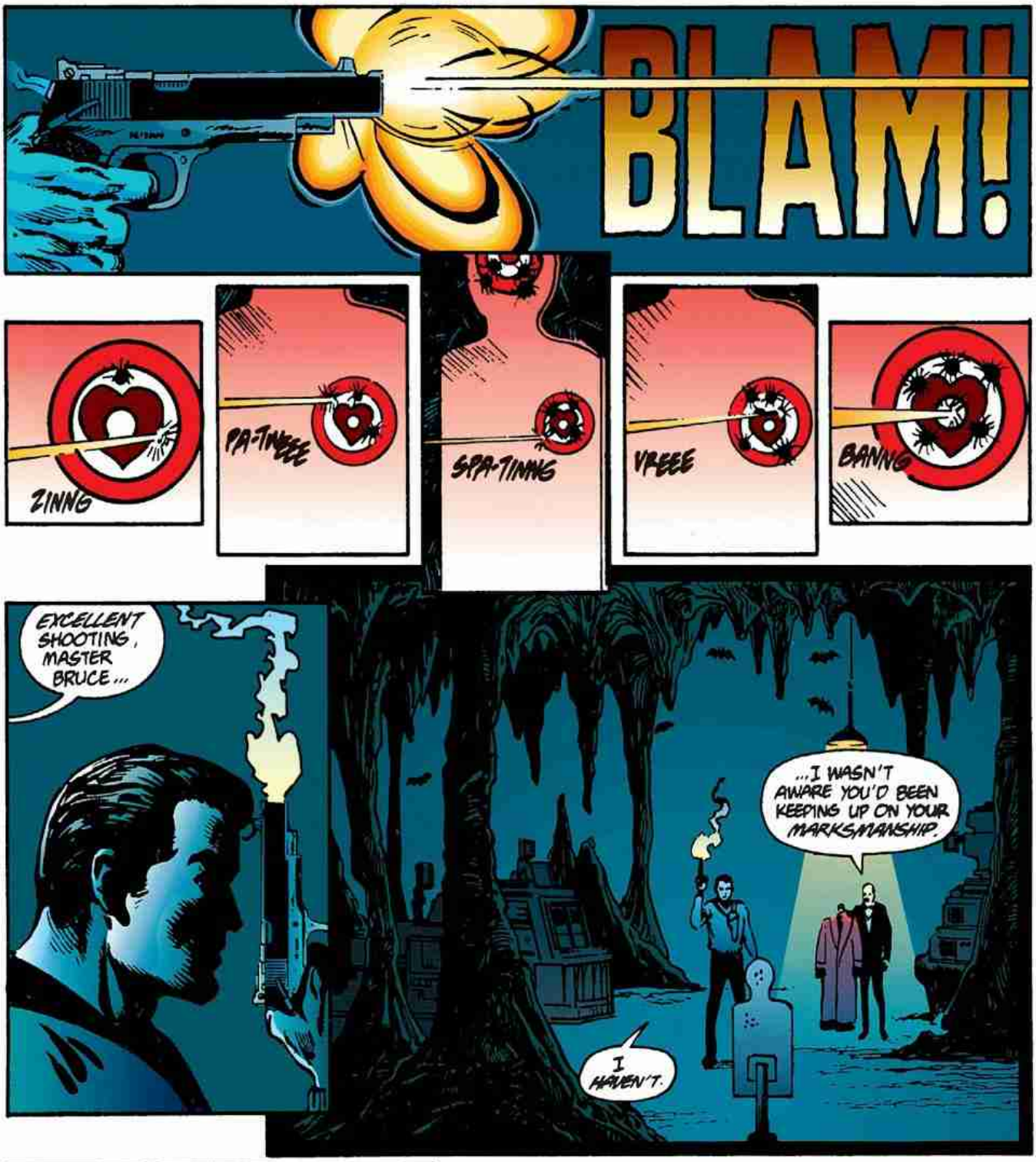
BLAM!
ZINNG
PA-TINEEEE
SPA-TINNG
VREEE
BANNG
EXCELLENT SHOOTING, MASTER BRUCE...
...I WASN'T AWARE YOU'D BEEN KEEPING UP ON YOUR MARKSMANSHIP.
I HAVEN'T.
I SEE. BREAKFAST IS SERVED, SIR.
THANK YOU, ALFRED. BE SURE TO CLEAN AND OIL THAT BEFORE YOU PUT IT AWAY.
VERY GOOD, SIR.
GOOD MORNING, LESLIE. DID YOU SLEEP WELL?
SLEEP? HOW COULD I SLEEP, KNOWING YOU WERE DOWN THERE WITH THAT GUN?

THE BATCAVE IS SOUNDPROOFED, LESLIE.
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN! HOW CAN YOU DO IT, BRUCE...?
...DO YOU EVER STOP TO THINK WHAT YOUR FATHER WOULD SAY IF HE KNEW?
EVERY DAY.
IT'S USELESS TO ARGUE WITH YOU. ALFRED, WOULD YOU PLEASE PHONE RACHEL CASPIAN AND TELL HER I CAN'T MAKE OUR LUNCH DATE? I'LL BE LOOKING AT APARTMENTS.
OF COURSE, MISS LESLIE.
ALFRED, DON'T BOTHER CALLING MISS CASPIAN... I'LL ATTEND TO THAT.
...ER... VERY WELL, SIR... IF YOU INSIST.
I DO. AND MAKE SURE MY EQUIPMENT IS IN WORKING ORDER--I'M GOING OUT TONIGHT.
VERY GOOD, SIR.

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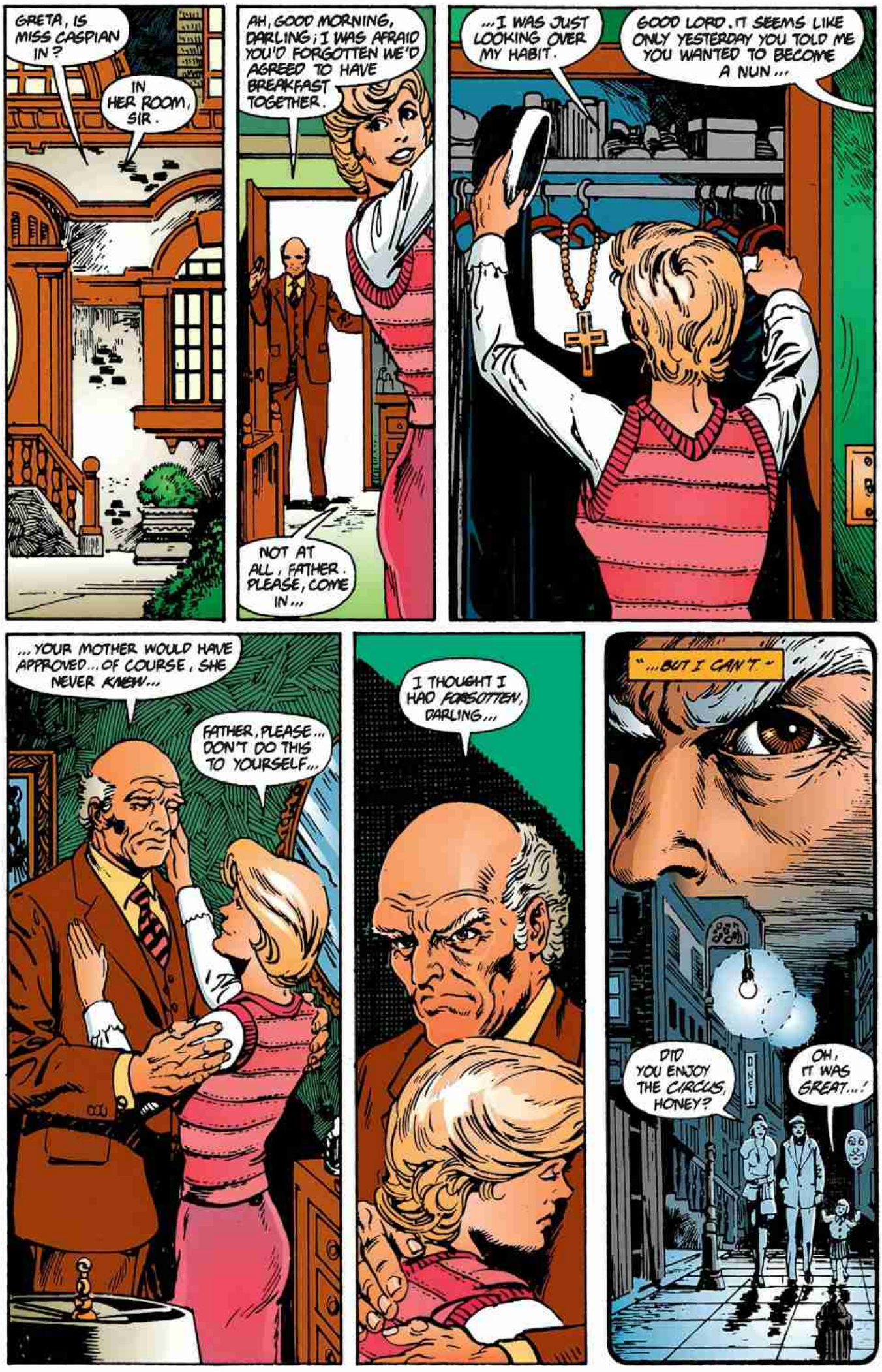
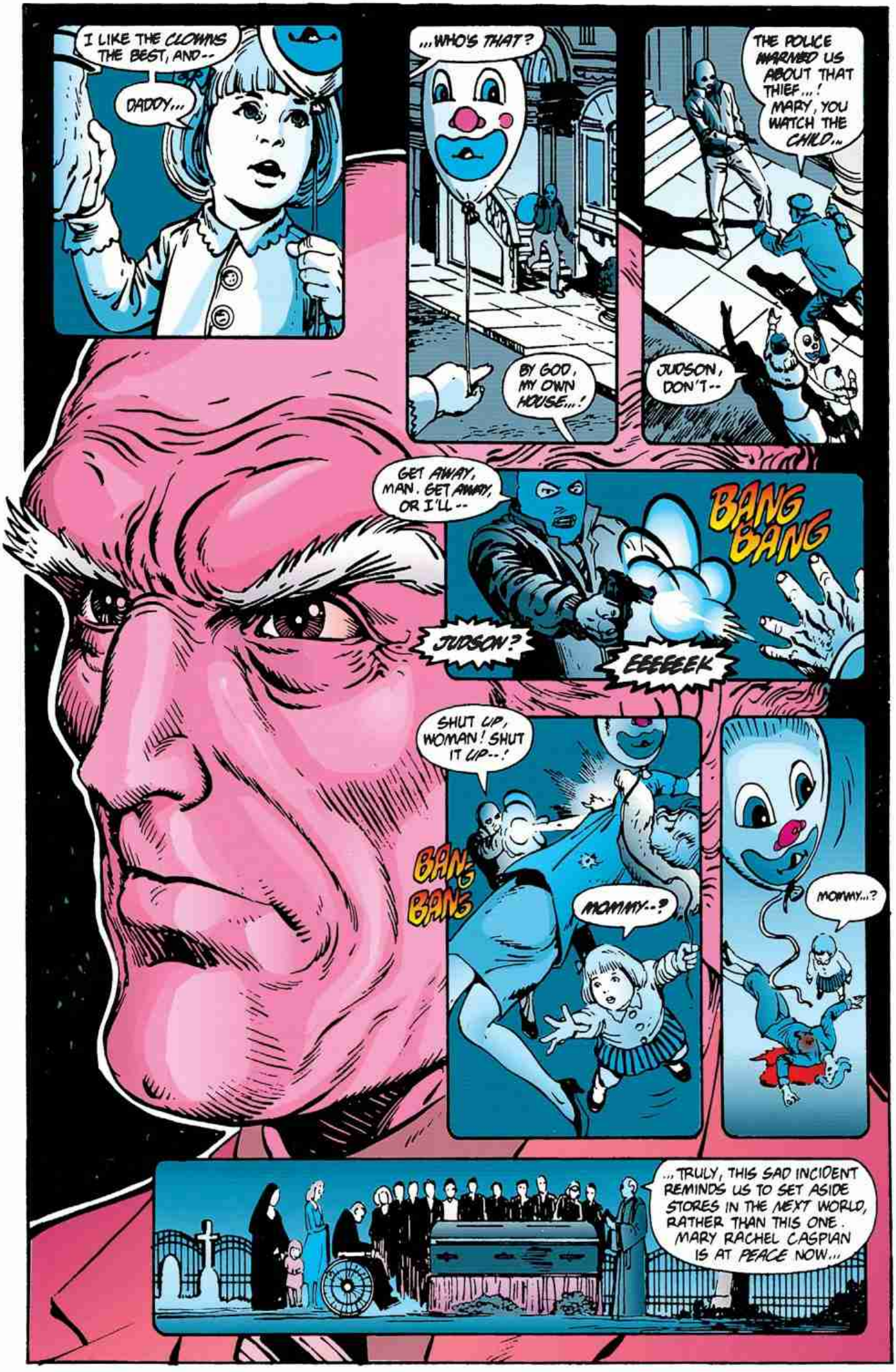
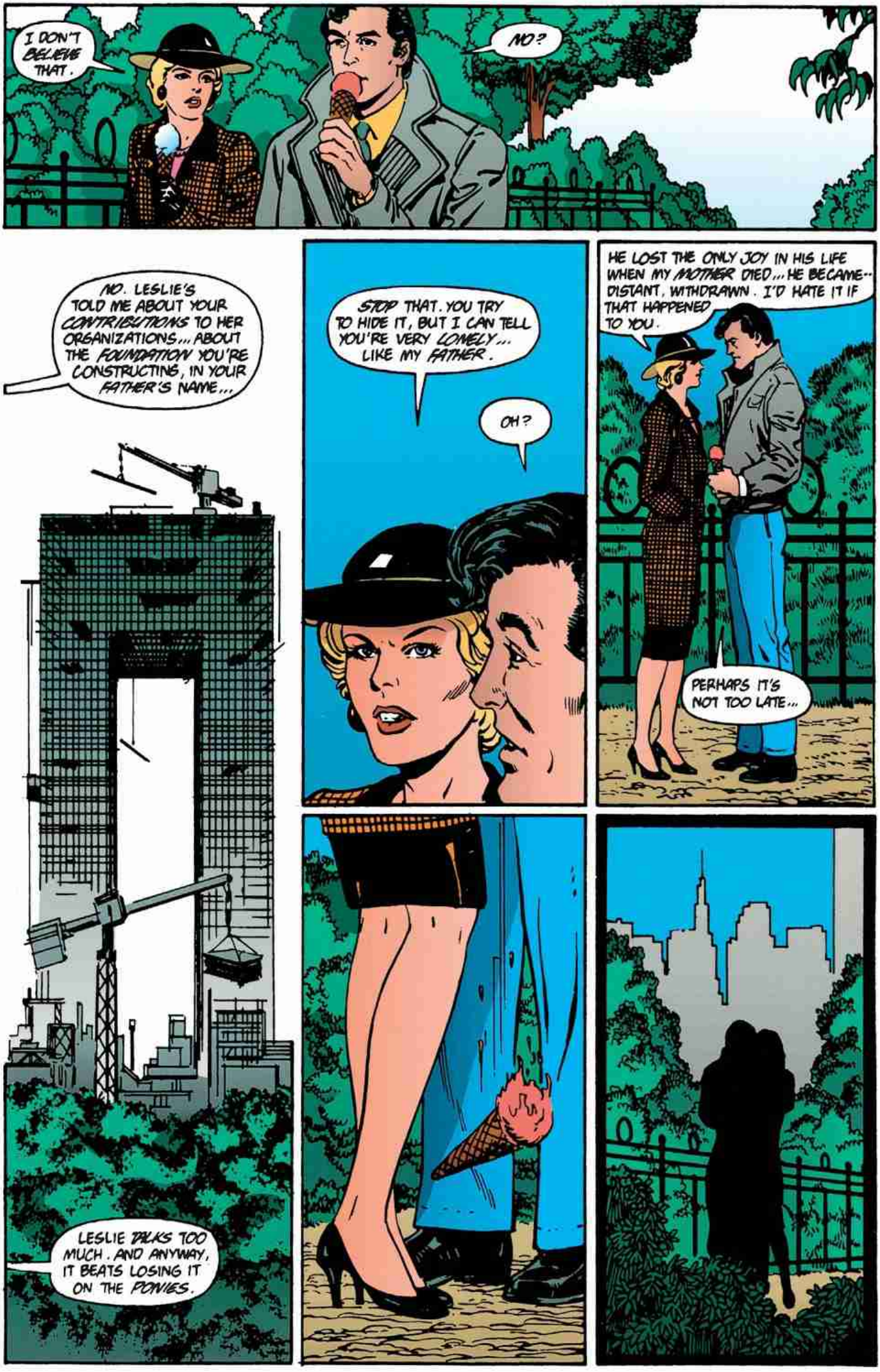

GRETA, IS MISS CASPIAN IN?
IN HER ROOM, SIR.
AH, GOOD MORNING, DARLING; I WAS AFRAID YOU'D FORGOTTEN WE'D AGREED TO HAVE BREAKFAST TOGETHER.
NOT AT ALL, FATHER. PLEASE, COME IN...
...I WAS JUST LOOKING OVER MY HABIT.
GOOD LORD. IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY YOU TOLD ME YOU WANTED TO BECOME A NUN...
...YOUR MOTHER WOULD HAVE APPROVED... OF COURSE, SHE NEVER KNEW...
FATHER, PLEASE... DON'T DO THIS TO YOURSELF...
I THOUGHT I HAD FORGOTTEN, DARLING...
"...BUT I CAN'T."
DID YOU ENJOY THE CIRCUS, HONEY?
OH, IT WAS GREAT...!

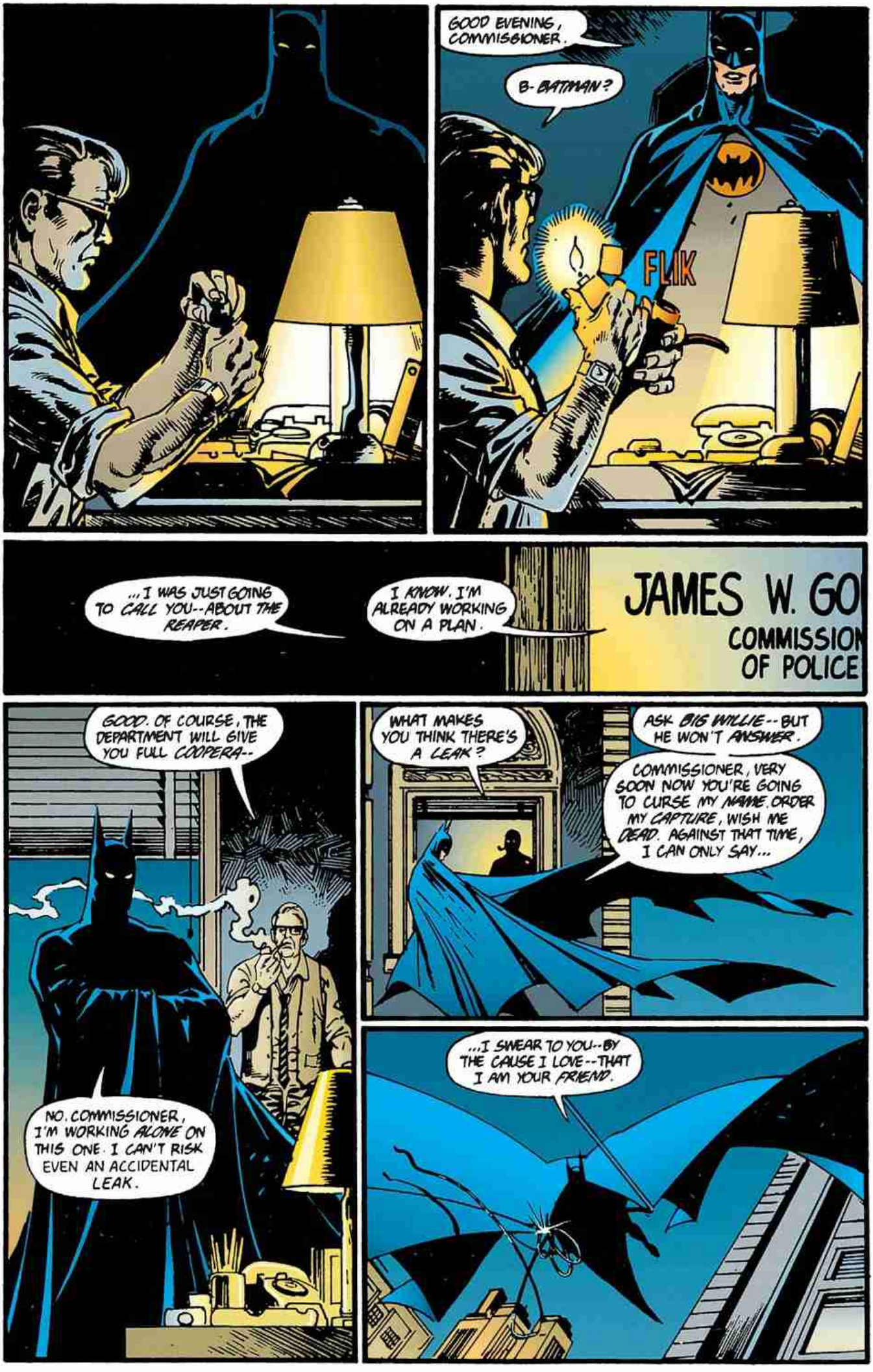
...BUT SHE LEAVES BEHIND A LOVING DAUGHTER, RACHEL...
...A DISTRAUGHT HUSBAND, JUDSON, CUT DOWN IN THE PRIME OF LIFE...
...WE ARE REMINDED OF THE WORDS OF THE PROPHET MICAH, WHO RIGHTLY SAID:
"...Thou shalt eat, but not be satisfied...
"...Thou shalt take hold, but shalt not deliver...
"...Thou shalt sow, but thou shalt not REAP."
DADDY...?

...DADDY, DID YOU HEAR ME?
I'M SORRY, DARLING, I WAS JUST REMEMBERING. RACHEL, PROMISE ME YOU'LL NEVER FORGET...
...WHATEVER I DO I DO FOR YOU...
...AND FOR HER.


I LIKE THE CLOWNS THE BEST, AND--
DADDY...
...WHO'S THAT?
BY GOD, MY OWN HOUSE...!
THE POLICE WARNED US ABOUT THAT THIEF...! MARY, YOU WATCH THE CHILD..
JUDSON, DON'T--
GET AWAY, MAN. GET AWAY, OR I'LL --
BANG BANG
JUDSON?
EEEEEEK
SHUT UP, WOMAN! SHUT IT UP--!
BANG BANG
MOMMY--?
MOMMY...?
...TRULY, THIS SAD INCIDENT REMINDS US TO SET ASIDE STORES IN THE NEXT WORLD, RATHER THAN THIS ONE. MARY RACHEL CASPIAN IS AT PEACE NOW...

IT'S NOT LIKE LESLIE TO BE LATE...
WELL, HELLO, MISS CASPIAN.
OH, MR. WAYNE. HAVE YOU SEEN LESLIE? I'M SUPPOSED TO MEET HER HERE...
I KNOW. SHE COULDN'T MAKE IT, SO SHE ASKED ME TO COME IN HER PLACE. I'M NOT UP ON MODERN SOCIETAL TRENDS...
"... BUT THERE'S NOT A MENU IN TOWN I CAN'T MASTER."
MR. WAYNE, I DON'T THINK YOU'VE BEEN ENTIRELY TRUTHFUL WITH ME...
LESLIE COULDN'T MAKE HER APPOINTMENT, RACHEL, THAT'S THE HONEST TRUTH... AND PLEASE, CALL ME BRUCE.
I HOPE LESLIE'S WELL. SHE TAKES ON MORE THAN ANY ONE PERSON CAN HANDLE.
CRUSADERS ARE LIKE THAT. THEY ALWAYS THINK THEY CAN CHANGE THE WORLD...
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?
ME?
YOU. I SENSE UNPLUMBED DEPTHS IN YOU.
NOT ME. I JUST HAVE TOO MUCH FREE TIME. MY ENTIRE LIFE IS AN ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE BOREDOM.
ICE CREAM 1.00


I DON'T BELIEVE THAT.
NO?
NO. LESLIE'S TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO HER ORGANIZATIONS... ABOUT THE FOUNDATION YOU'RE CONSTRUCTING, IN YOUR FATHER'S NAME...
LESLIE TALKS TOO MUCH. AND ANYWAY, IT BEATS LOSING IT ON THE PONIES.
STOP THAT. YOU TRY TO HIDE IT, BUT I CAN TELL YOU'RE VERY LONELY... LIKE MY FATHER.
OH?
HE LOST THE ONLY JOY IN HIS LIFE WHEN MY MOTHER DIED... HE BECAME-- DISTANT, WITHDRAWN. I'D HATE IT IF THAT HAPPENED TO YOU.
PERHAPS IT'S NOT TOO LATE...


GOOD EVENING, COMMISSIONER.
B-BATMAN?
FLIK
...I WAS JUST GOING TO CALL YOU--ABOUT THE REAPER.
I KNOW. I'M ALREADY WORKING ON A PLAN.
JAMES W. GO
COMMISSION
OF POLICE
GOOD. OF COURSE, THE DEPARTMENT WILL GIVE YOU FULL COOPERA--
NO. COMMISSIONER, I'M WORKING ALONE ON THIS ONE. I CAN'T RISK EVEN AN ACCIDENTAL LEAK.
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THERE'S A LEAK?
ASK BIG WILLIE--BUT HE WON'T ANSWER.
COMMISSIONER, VERY SOON NOW YOU'RE GOING TO CURSE MY NAME, ORDER MY CAPTURE, WISH ME DEAD. AGAINST THAT TIME, I CAN ONLY SAY...
...I SWEAR TO YOU--BY THE CAUSE I LOVE--THAT I AM YOUR FRIEND.

YOU KNOW THE SCORE, MEN. JOHNNY HEYMER FROM METROPOLIS IS COMING IN FOR A HIGH COUNCIL OF MOB BOSSES...
...AND WE'RE GOING TO GET HIM BEFORE THE REAPER DOES! CLEAR?
YESSIR! STILL, I'D FEEL BETTER IF THE BATMAN WERE HERE--
THAT'LL BE ENOUGH OF THAT! WE DID OUR JOB BEFORE HIM, AND WE'LL DO IT WITHOUT HIM!
GET READY, THAT'S THE PLANE!
SOMETHING'S WRONG. THE CREW WAS TOLD NOT TO APPROACH THE PLANE UNTIL THE PASSENGERS ARE OFF...
I SMELL A RAT, MEN-- LET'S GO!
PROBLEMS, MR. HEYMER!
WE'RE ON A VACATION, MARTIN, WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR.
YOU ARE WRONG, JONATHAN HEYMER...

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... FOR YOU WILL SOON KNOW TO FEAR... THE REAPER!
KA-KLKT
KLUNKT
YOU DARE--?
I DO.
SLSSSHH
I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU, BATMAN! WE'VE GOT HIM NOW--
GA-TAUNNG
GET OUT OF HERE, GORDON-- BEFORE THIS GETS SERIOUS!
I SEE YOU HAVE LEARNED FROM ME, BATMAN...

...BUT BY FACING ME AGAIN, YOU PROVE YOU ARE NOT YET WISE!
I'VE WEAPONS OF MY OWN TOO, REAPER...
...LIKE THESE!
POOOSH
FALL BACK, MEN-- DON'T GIVE HIM EASY TARGETS!
WHEEEE
KAF
MARTIN, KEEP HIM OFF ME!
DON'T WORRY, BOSS!
HE WILL SOON BE BEYOND WORRY...
UNGGH!
...AS ARE YOU!
COME TO ME, HEYMER... LET IT BE DONE!
N-NO...!

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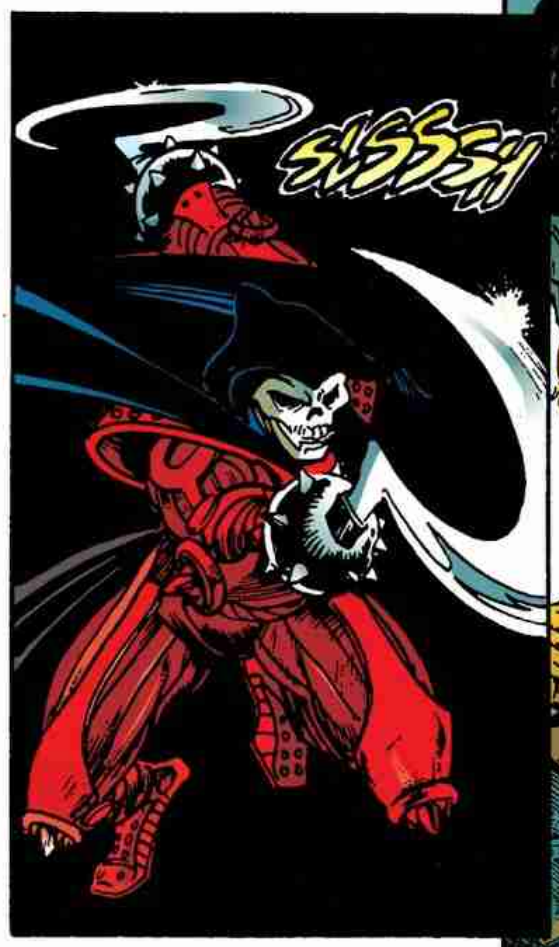
OOOF!
HE NEARLY KILLED ME LAST TIME WE FOUGHT... I'M NOT READY TO HAVE IT OUT WITH HIM JUST YET...
SLSSSH
...BUT I'M AFRAID HE DOESN'T FEEL THE SAME ABOUT ME...
THUNKT
...SO HE'LL HAVE TO TAKE HIMSELF OUT OF ACTION!
COME ON, HEYMER--UNLESS YOU WANT TO TAKE YOUR CHANCES WITH GORDON AND HIS MEN!
EMERGEN
EXIT
BUT...I THOUGHT YOU WAS WORKING WITH GORDON!
YOU THOUGHT WRONG.

WE'VE GOT YOU, AT LEAST.
FOR NOW...
...BUT CAN YOU KEEP ME?
LOOK OUT, HE'S--
BANG BANG BANG

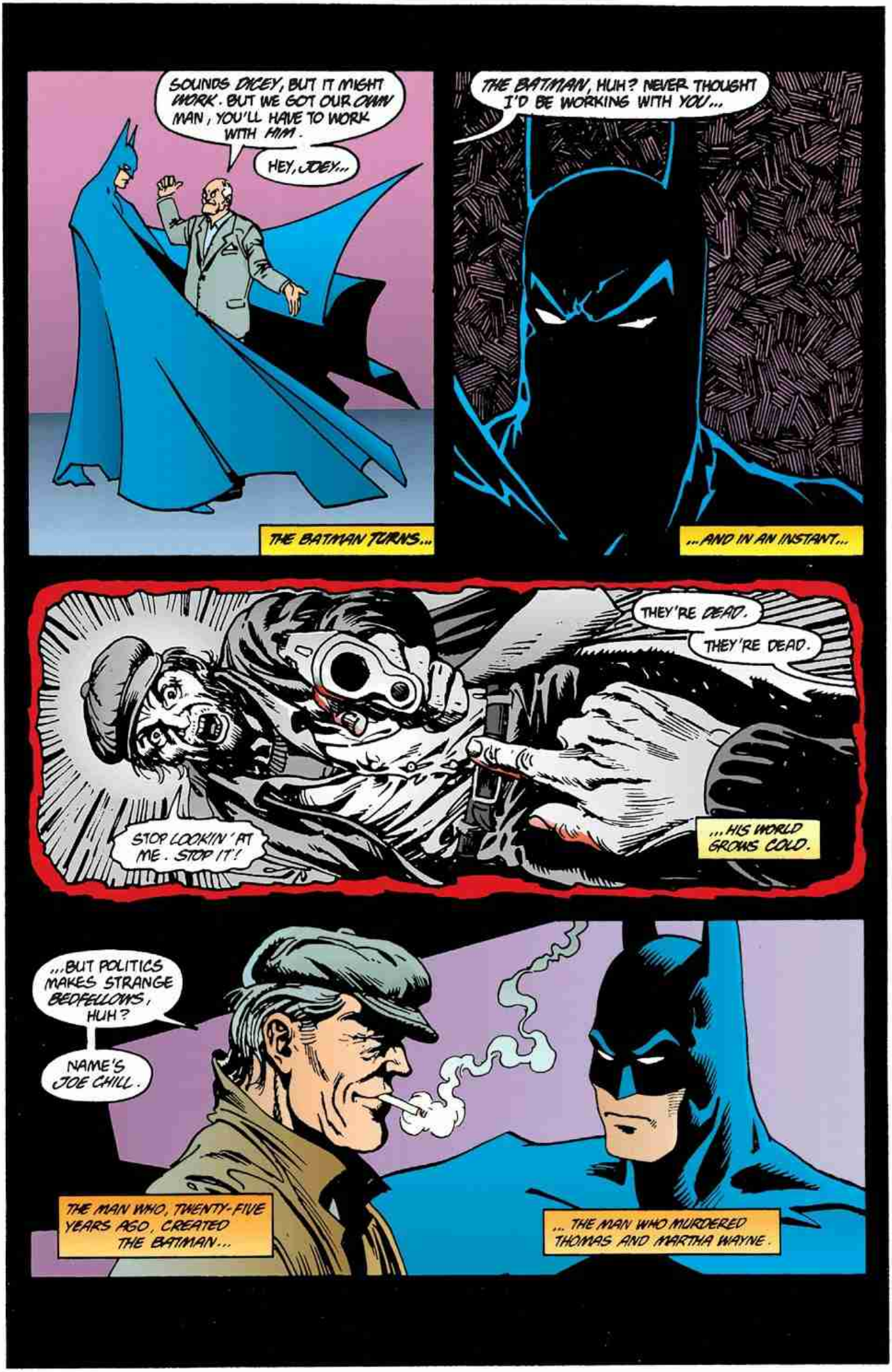
BA-BOOOM
FUEL


SLSSSH

GOME. IF ANY ROOKIE PERFORMED LIKE THIS, I'D DOCK HIM.
I CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT WENT DOWN WITH THE REAPER, COMMISSIONER...

...BUT WHAT'S WHAT WITH THE BATMAN? I THOUGHT HE WAS ON OUR SIDE!
SO DID I, McGINLEY...
SNAP
...LOOKS LIKE WE WERE BOTH WRONG.
THE SITUATION HAS BECOME INTOLERABLE, GENTLEMEN!

OUR DRUG MERCHANTS ARE AFRAID TO DEAL -- PROFITS DOWN THIRTY-FIVE PERCENT! OUR PROSTITUTES REFUSE TO GO OUT -- PROFITS DOWN FORTY-THREE PERCENT!
WE ALL KNOW THE PROBLEM, MORRIE...
... IN ONE WEEK, THIS "REAPER'S" CUT DEEP, AND IT'S NO DIFFERENT UPTOWN! BUT I SAY WE CAN HANDLE HIM ON OUR OWN!
YOUR NAME'S MORGAN JONES, RIGHT?
YOU NEED THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB, JONES. I NEED SOME DOPE, OR SOME DAME, I CALL YOU. YOU NEED A GUY HIT--
--YOU CALL ME.
I'M NOT CONVINCED! I VOTE NO!
WE AIN'T HEARD FROM METROPOLIS YET! WHERE'S HEYMER?
KRASSH


SOUNDS DICEY, BUT IT MIGHT WORK. BUT WE GOT OUR OWN MAN, YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK WITH HIM.
HEY, JOEY...
THE BATMAN TURNS...
THE BATMAN, HUH? NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE WORKING WITH YOU...
...AND IN AN INSTANT...
THEY'RE DEAD.
THEY'RE DEAD.
STOP LOOKIN' AT ME. STOP IT!
...HIS WORLD GROWS COLD.
...BUT POLITICS MAKES STRANGE BEDFELLOWS, HUH?
NAME'S JOE CHILL.
THE MAN WHO, TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, CREATED THE BATMAN...
... THE MAN WHO MURDERED THOMAS AND MARTHA WAYNE.

YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE...?
I'M HERE TO CALL A TRUCE. I WANT THE REAPER AS MUCH AS YOU DO... BUT FOR MY OWN REASONS.
OUR GOAL IS THE SAME. I SUGGEST WE WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE IT...
...INSTEAD OF FIGHTING EACH OTHER, AND DOING THE REAPER'S WORK FOR HIM.
SOUNDS GOOD ON PAPER... BUT HOW DO WE KNOW YOU WON'T TRY TO CROSS US?
YOU DON'T...
...ANY MORE THAN I KNOW YOU WON'T TRY TO CROSS ME.

DEADLY ALLIES

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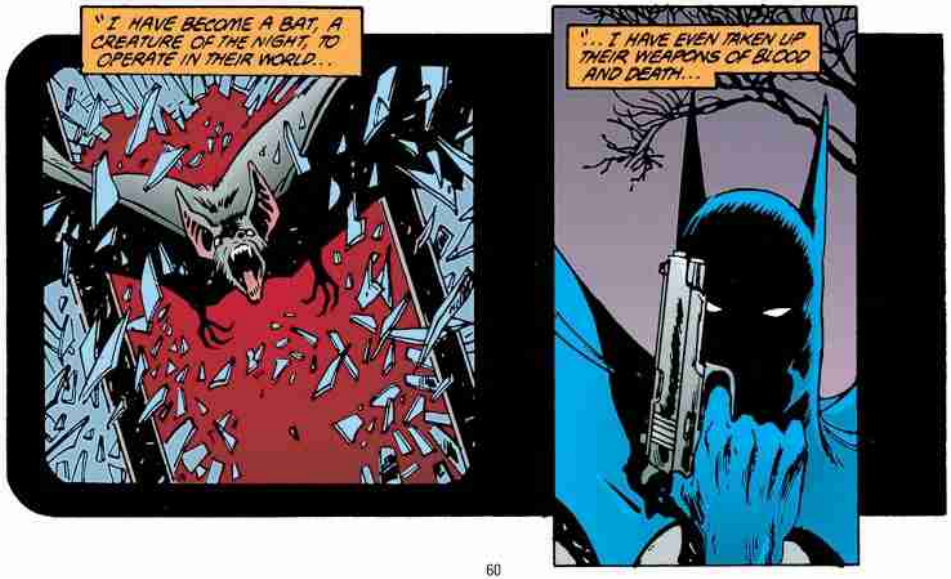
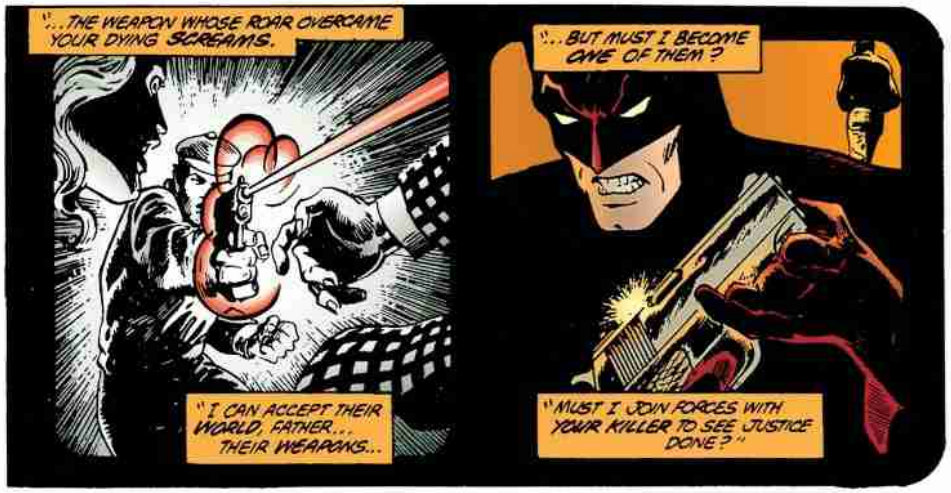
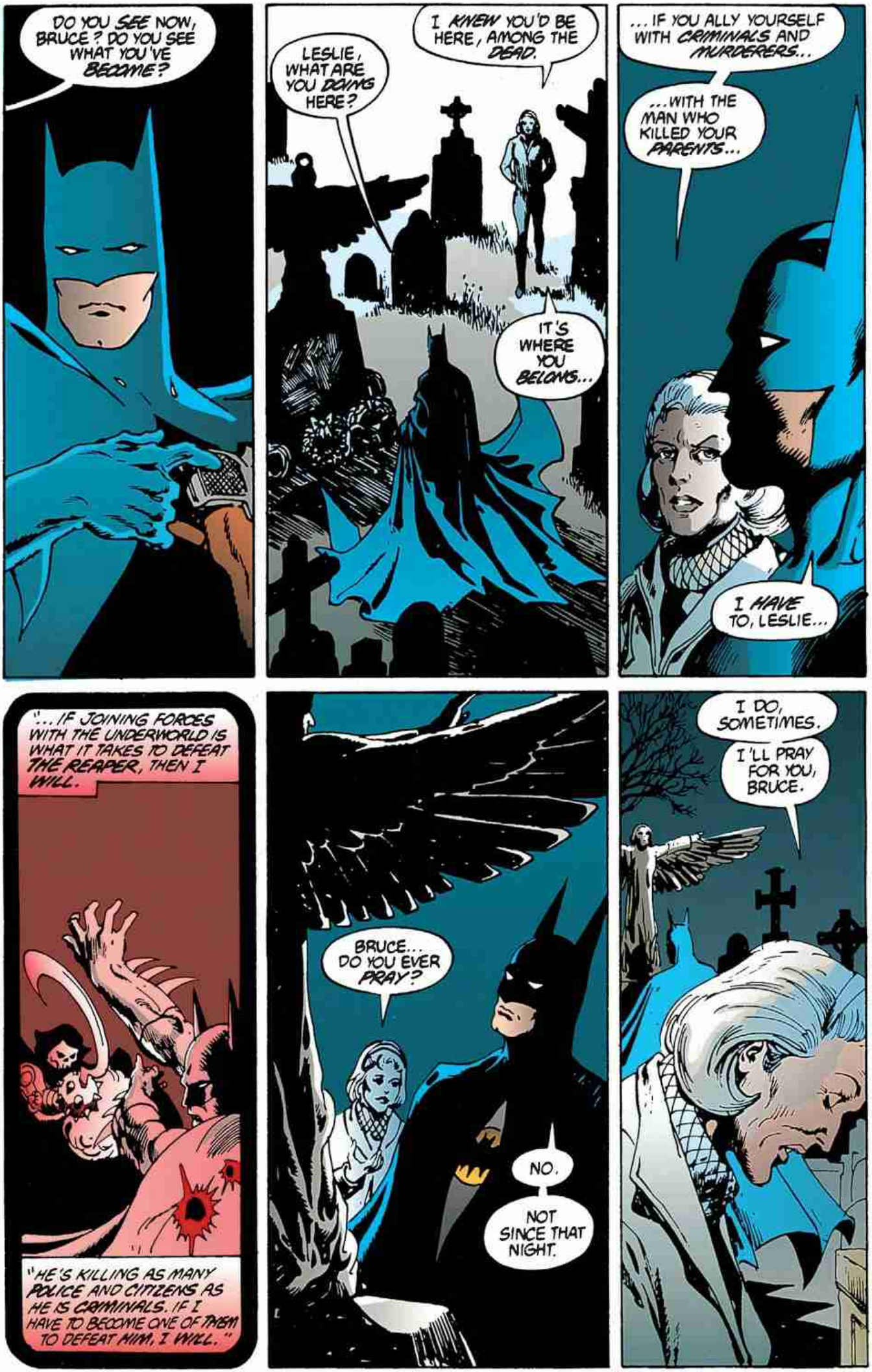
RIP

"YOU SHOWED ME, FATHER.
"I ASKED YOU WHAT I MUST DO TO MAKE THEM AFRAID. AND YOU TOLD ME.


"I HAVE BECOME A BAT, A CREATURE OF THE NIGHT, TO OPERATE IN THEIR WORLD...
"...I HAVE EVEN TAKEN UP THEIR WEAPONS OF BLOOD AND DEATH...


"...THE WEAPON WHOSE ROAR OVERCAME YOUR DYING SCREAMS.
"I CAN ACCEPT THEIR WORLD, FATHER... THEIR WEAPONS...
"...BUT MUST I BECOME ONE OF THEM?
"MUST I JOIN FORCES WITH YOUR KILLER TO SEE JUSTICE DONE?"


DO YOU SEE NOW, BRUCE? DO YOU SEE WHAT YOU'VE BECOME?
LESLIE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I KNEW YOU'D BE HERE, AMONG THE DEAD.
IT'S WHERE YOU BELONG...
...IF YOU ALLY YOURSELF WITH CRIMINALS AND MURDERERS...
...WITH THE MAN WHO KILLED YOUR PARENTS...
I HAVE TO, LESLIE...
"...IF JOINING FORCES WITH THE UNDERWORLD IS WHAT IT TAKES TO DEFEAT THE REAPER, THEN I WILL.
"HE'S KILLING AS MANY POLICE AND CITIZENS AS HE IS CRIMINALS. IF I HAVE TO BECOME ONE OF THEM TO DEFEAT HIM, I WILL."
BRUCE... DO YOU EVER PRAY?
NO.
NOT SINCE THAT NIGHT.
I DO, SOMETIMES.
I'LL PRAY FOR YOU, BRUCE.

... THEY'LL BE IN HELL BEFORE THEY EVEN KNOW WHAT HIT--
YOUR WAY GIVES US NOTHING BUT CORPSES, CHILL. LET'S TRY MINE.
YOU HEAR ANY-THING?
YOU GOT ANTS IN YOUR DRAWERS. SIDOOWN, NERVOUS...
...IT'LL BE OVER SOON ENOUGH.
WHUDD
HOLY GOD--!
LIKE SHOOTIN' FISH IN A BARREL--!

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SCRITCH
CHILL.
YOU'RE RIGHT ON TIME. LET'S GO.
THE TARGET'S HOME?
HE'S ALWAYS HOME. DON'T THINK HE'S EXPECTING COMPANY.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, I DIDN'T BRING A PRESENT.
THERE...
... HIS SENTRIES. WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE THEM OUT FIRST.
NO PROBLEM...

NO--!
CLINCT
B-TWINING
WHEN THEY WAKE UP, THEY'LL DO ANYTHING WE SAY. A BULLET CAN'T BUY THAT KIND OF FEAR.
NO ARGUMENT..
...BUT MY WAY'S GOT ITS USES, TOO.
WE'LL SEE.
THEY'RE IN MERE. WE'LL GO ON THREE--
FOR A MAN WHO DOESN'T LIKE GUNS, YOU SURE PACK A CANNON.
I USED TO CARRY A PIECE LIKE THAT.
IS THAT RIGHT?
ONE--

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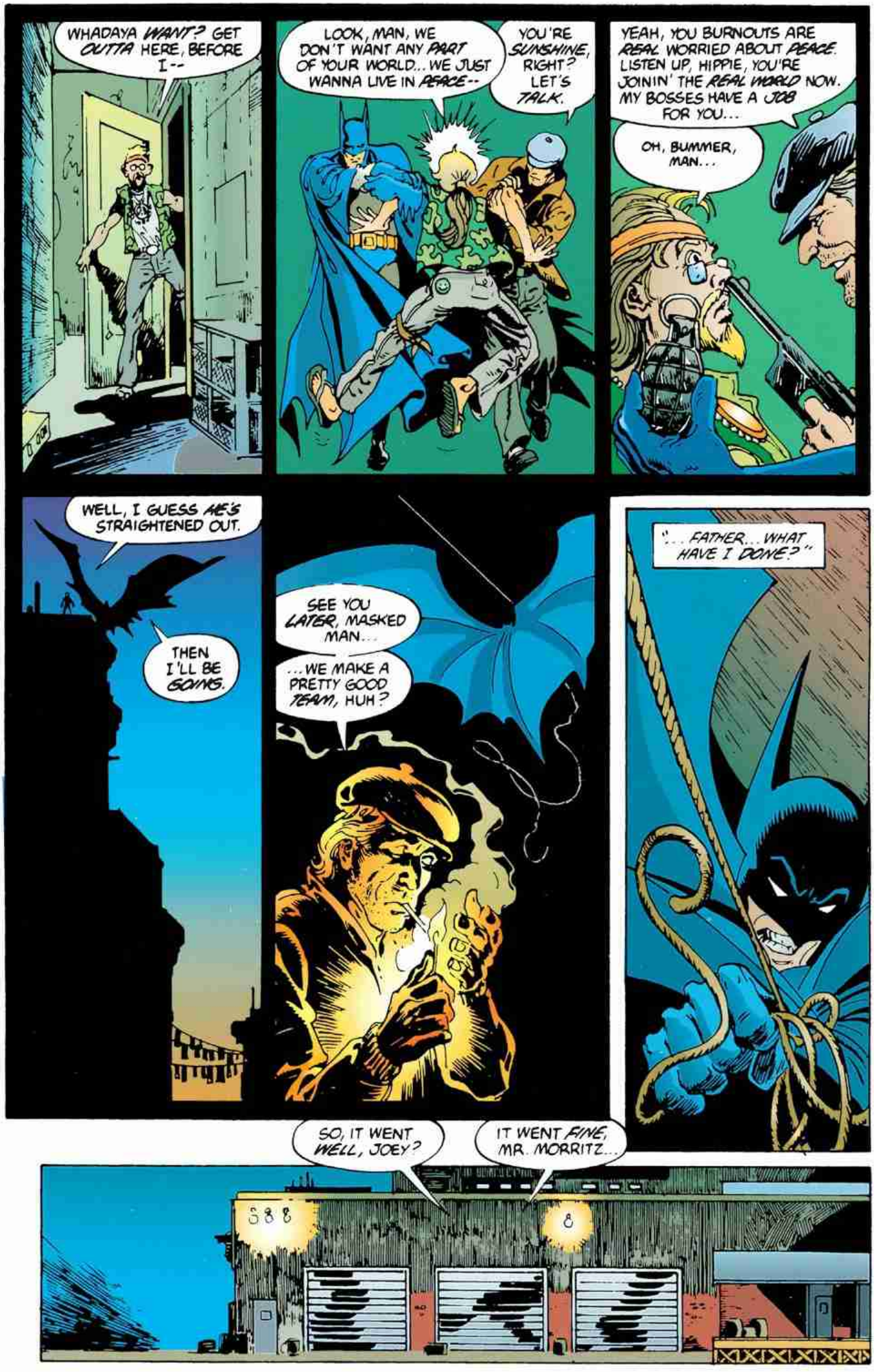
YOU'D KILL YOURSELF TOO, SON... LET'S TALK THIS OVER.
I-I DUNNO..
BANG
CHILL.
RIGHT HERE.
THAT WASN'T NECESSARY.
OMELETTES AND EGGS, PARTNER...
... WOULDN'T DO MUCH FOR MY REP IF I LET YOU GET KILLED, WOULD IT?
LOVE
OUR QUARRY OUGHT TO BE BACK HERE, SOME--
WATCH IT!

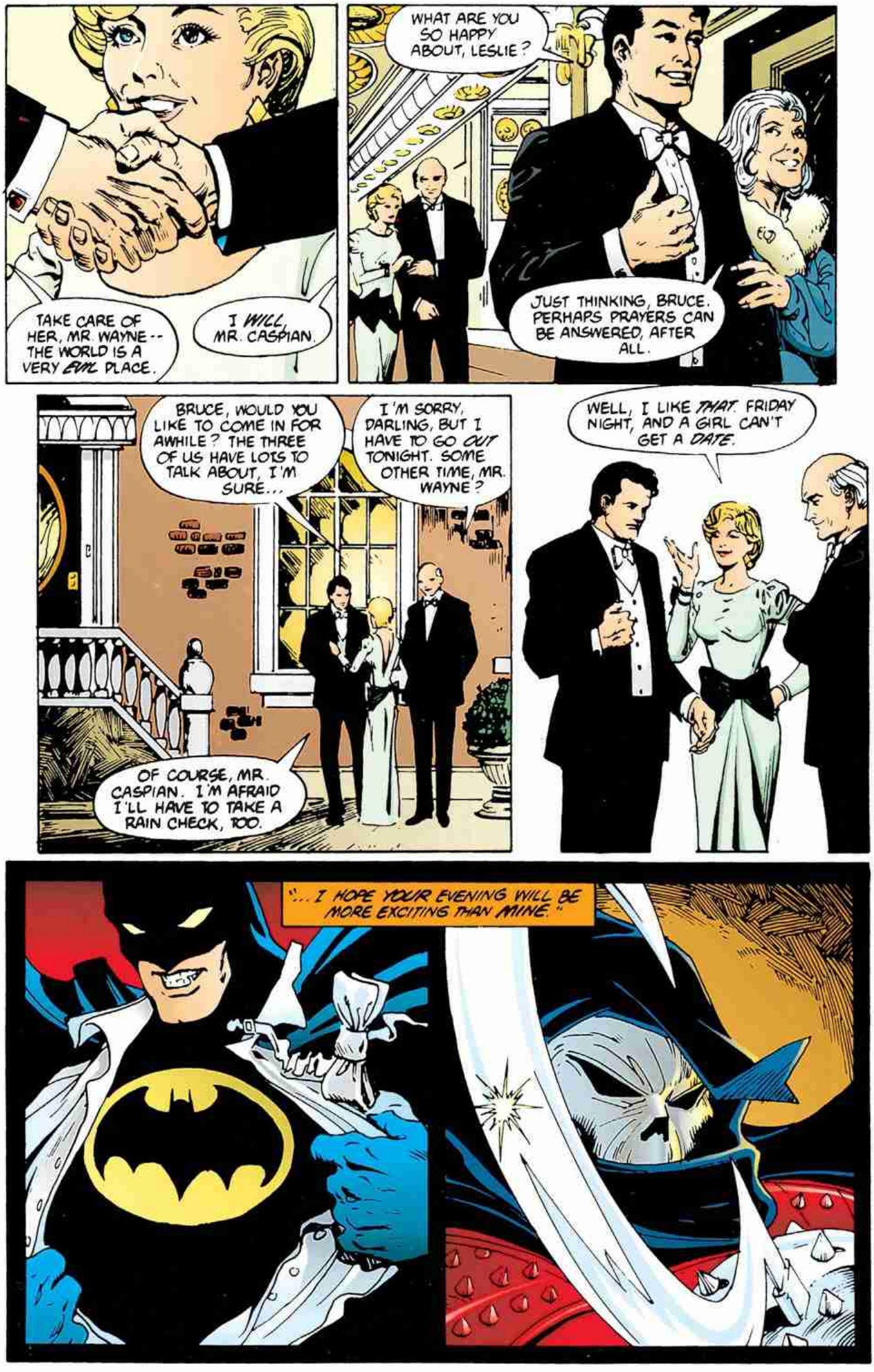
"TWO--"
BLACK SABB
THREE!
BANG
BANG
WHOOM
FALLEN ANGEL
SHOOM
UNGGGH!
ONE SIDE.
STAY AWAY, MAN...
KEEP OUT
...I'M WARNING YOU!


WHADAYA WANT? GET OUTTA HERE, BEFORE I--
LOOK, MAN, WE DON'T WANT ANY PART OF YOUR WORLD... WE JUST WANNA LIVE IN PEACE--
YOU'RE SUNSHINE, RIGHT? LET'S TALK.
YEAH, YOU BURNOUTS ARE REAL WORRIED ABOUT PEACE. LISTEN UP, HIPPIE, YOU'RE JOININ' THE REAL WORLD NOW. MY BOSSES HAVE A JOB FOR YOU...
OH, BUMMER, MAN...
WELL, I GUESS HE'S STRAIGHTENED OUT.
THEN I'LL BE GOING.
SEE YOU LATER, MASKED MAN...
...WE MAKE A PRETTY GOOD TEAM, HUH?
"... FATHER... WHAT HAVE I DONE?"
SO, IT WENT WELL, JOEY?
IT WENT FINE, MR. MORRITZ...
588
8

... THOSE HIPPIES ARE GOING INTO DEALING THIS FRIDAY NIGHT... AND WE FIGURE THE REAPER'LL GET WORD...
... AND WE GET HIM, EH? NICE. A BUILDING FULL'A JUDAS GOATS. NICE.
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE BATMAN? I DON'T TRUST HIM.
NEITHER DO I, MR. JONES -- BUT I'VE SEEN HIM WORK. HE'S SOFT, INSIDE, WHERE IT COUNTS.
I CAN TAKE HIM OUT.
WAIT UNTIL AFTER YOU'VE DONE THIS "REAPER," JOEY... THEN YOU CAN KILL HIM.
FOR A BONUS?
OF COURSE FOR A BONUS. NOBODY WORKS FOR FREE -- NOT FOR ME.
PAT
PAT
PAT
PLEASURE DOING BUSINESS, MR. MORRITZ.
COMMISSIONER, I THOUGHT YOU'D BETTER SEE THIS...
WHAT IS IT, LIEUTENANT?

WORD OF A BIG DRUG DEAL, SIR-- FRIDAY NIGHT, IN SOUTHVILLE.
SOUTHVILLE? NOTHING THERE BUT WELFARE TENANTS AND DREGS OF THE SIXTIES.
... BUT IT MAY BE THAT SOMEONE'S LOOKING TO ESTABLISH SOME CLIENTELE-- AND THAT WOULD CERTAINLY INTEREST OUR FRIEND THE REAPER...
YES, SIR... AND MAYBE THE BATMAN?
LET'S CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN WE COME TO IT, BUKOWSKI. CHECK THE DUTY ROSTER AND ASSEMBLE A FORCE FOR FRIDAY.
YES, SIR.
BRUCE, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE GOING THROUGH WITH--
LESLIE, LISTEN TO ME...
I CARE FOR RACHEL CASPIAN VERY MUCH-- MORE THAN ANY WOMAN I'VE EVER MET. IF YOU THINK I'D DO ANYTHING TO HURT HER, YOU DON'T KNOW ME.
I THOUGHT I KNEW YOU, BRUCE...
...BUT THESE PAST FEW DAYS, I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER IF I'VE EVER KNOWN YOU AT ALL.

WELL, HERE YOU ARE, FATHER, YOU ALREADY KNOW LESLIE THOMPKINS...
OF COURSE. GOOD EVENING, DR. THOMPKINS.
HELLO, MR. CASPIAN.
AND THIS, FATHER... THIS IS BRUCE WAYNE.
HELLO, MR. CASPIAN. A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.
AND YOU, MR. WAYNE. YOU'RE THE MAN WHO'S COAXED MY RACHEL OUT OF THE CONVENT, EH?
FATHER, I'D NOT TAKEN MY FINAL VOWS... THERE WAS STILL TIME TO CHANGE MY MIND.
AND I, FOR ONE, AM GLAD SHE DID.
I'LL BE FRANK, MR WAYNE -- YOUR REPUTATION PRECEDES YOU. MY RACHEL HAS BEEN VERY MUCH HURT BY LIFE, AND I NEVER WANT TO SEE HER HURT AGAIN.
FATHER...
I UNDERSTAND, MR CASPIAN...
...BOTH YOUR ATTITUDE AND RACHEL'S AGAIN. I'VE BEEN HURT MYSELF BY LIFE, BUT I'M TRYING TO PUT THAT BEHIND ME...
... I THINK THAT MAY BE THE SUPREME CAPACITY OF THE HUMAN SOUL.. TO PUT PAIN BEHIND IT, TO BEGIN ANEW. I LOVE RACHEL, MR. CASPIAN.
I WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING TO HURT HER.


TAKE CARE OF HER, MR. WAYNE -- THE WORLD IS A VERY EVIL PLACE.
I WILL, MR. CASPIAN.
WHAT ARE YOU SO HAPPY ABOUT, LESLIE?
JUST THINKING, BRUCE. PERHAPS PRAYERS CAN BE ANSWERED, AFTER ALL.
BRUCE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME IN FOR AWHILE? THE THREE OF US HAVE LOTS TO TALK ABOUT, I'M SURE...
I'M SORRY, DARLING, BUT I HAVE TO GO OUT TONIGHT. SOME OTHER TIME, MR. WAYNE?
OF COURSE, MR. CASPIAN. I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO TAKE A RAIN CHECK, TOO.
WELL, I LIKE THAT. FRIDAY NIGHT, AND A GIRL CAN'T GET A DATE.
"... I HOPE YOUR EVENING WILL BE MORE EXCITING THAN MINE."

ARE YOU READY, CHILL?
LET'S GO, PARTNER
NEVER BE READER..
SUNSHINE PALACE
GET OUTTA HERE, YOU BUM!
OOPS... SORRY THERE, GEN'LMEN... SPARE A QUARTER?
ETHER
ETHER

...BUT IT'S NOTHIN' THEY'RE EAGER TO PLAY SHOW-AND-TELL WITH.
ALERT ALL UNITS, BUKOWSKI.
THEY'RE UNLOADING SOMETHING. CAN'T MAKE OUT WHAT IT IS...
YESSIR.
I DUNNO, MAN... I MEAN, WE MIGHT DO A LITTLE GRASS ONCE IN AWHILE, BUT NOTHIN' HARD, NOTHIN' THAT'LL DO, LIKE, BRAIN DAMAGE, Y'KNOW?
ETHER
PEACE
THEN YOU MUSTA BEEN BORN THAT WAY, DUFUS! THIS IS T'MAKE THE SETUP LOOK LEGIT. THIS IS BAIT...
"...AND THIS WHOLE BUILDING'S THE TRAP."
KA
KA
?
AAAAGGG--
CHILL, GIVE ME THOSE BINOCULARS--I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING...

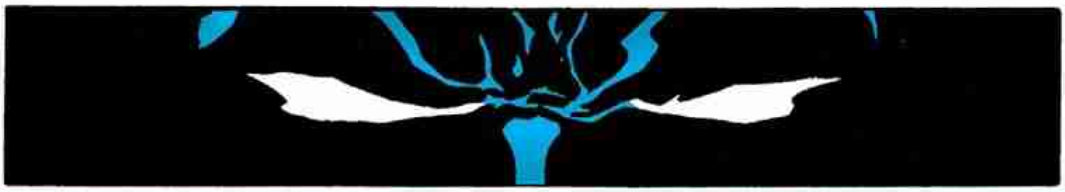
"THAT COP-- THE ONE DISGUISED AS A WINO--HE'S DEAD..."
I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING.
I DON'T KNOW THAT I DID. BUT I THOUGHT--
...AND I KNOW WHY. LET'S GO.
RIGHT BEHIND YOU.
GOOD LORD. THE REAPER'S HERE, ALL RIGHT, AND KREIGER MUST HAVE--
COMMISSIONER, LOOK!
TELL ALL UNITS TO MOVE IN!
THOUGHT I TOLD YOU T'LAM, RUMMY!
YOU DID...
LUV
WAR
MELANIE
AL
...AND I TELL YOU NOW TO FEAR...
KA-KLIK

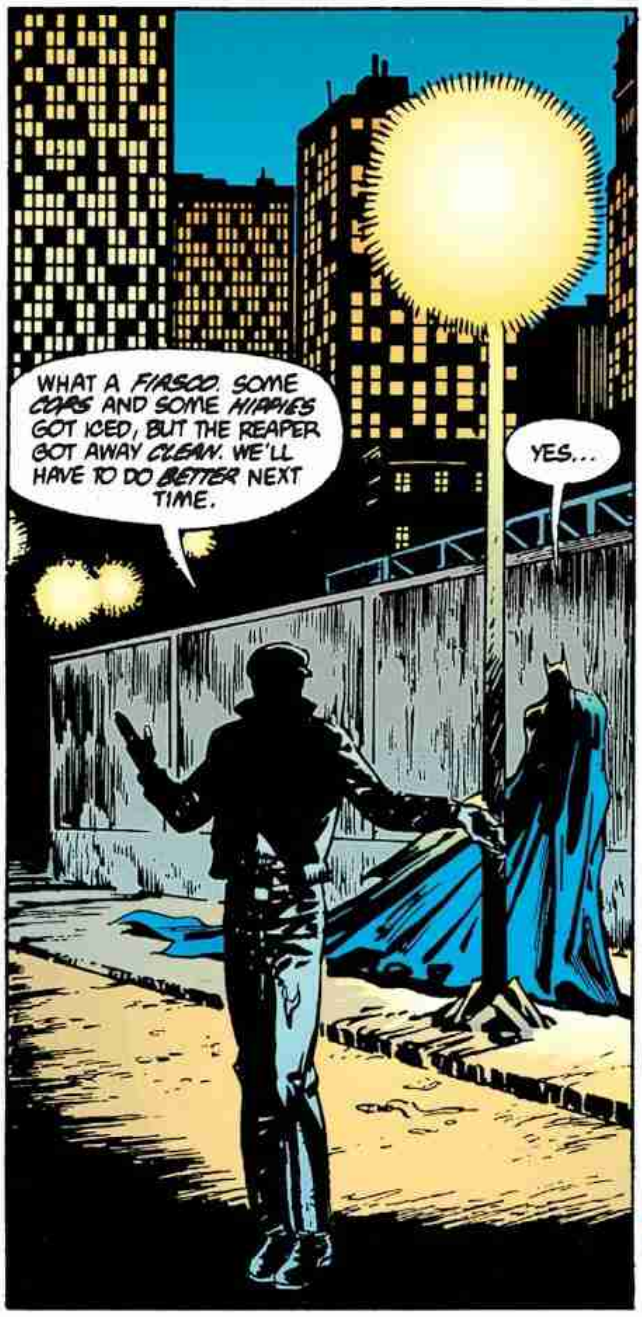
...FEAR... THE REAPER!
SHAKKKT
CORDON OFF THE BUILDING, MEN! SWAT TEAM, LET'S GO!
BANG BANG ZINNG SPWEEEE
MELISSA
DAVE
CHILL, LISTEN--!
I HEARD THAT!
IN THERE, MEN! LET'S CLEAN THIS UP ONCE AND FOR ALL!

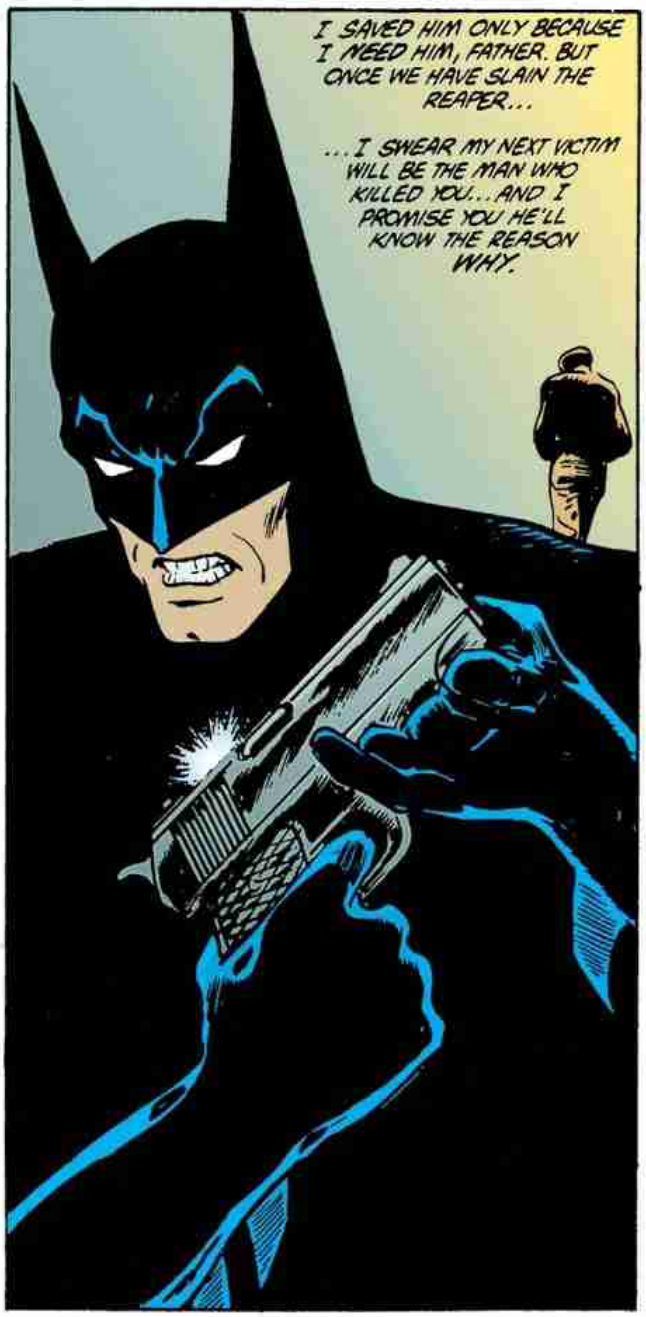
ZINNNG
SHAKKK
THAT'S FAR ENOUGH, REAPER!
NOT NEARLY FAR ENOUGH...
... NOT YET.
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
UNNNGH!
FREEZE, EVERYONE!

BRRRRRT
GORDON, DOWN!
YOU--YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
THUNK
BANG BANG
SHAKKKT
BANG BANG
FOOOOSH

ETHER
CHILL, DON'T! THAT ETHER MIGHT--
WHOOOOM
HEY, PARTNER-- A LITTLE HELP HERE, HUH?
YOU DEAF? GIMME A HAND...






I SAVED HIM ONLY BECAUSE I NEED HIM, FATHER. BUT ONCE WE HAVE SLAIN THE REAPER...
...I SWEAR MY NEXT VICTIM WILL BE THE MAN WHO KILLED YOU...AND I PROMISE YOU HE'LL KNOW THE REASON WHY.

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SO SHALL YE REAP

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with

× GLORIA VASQUEZ/OLYOPTICS ×

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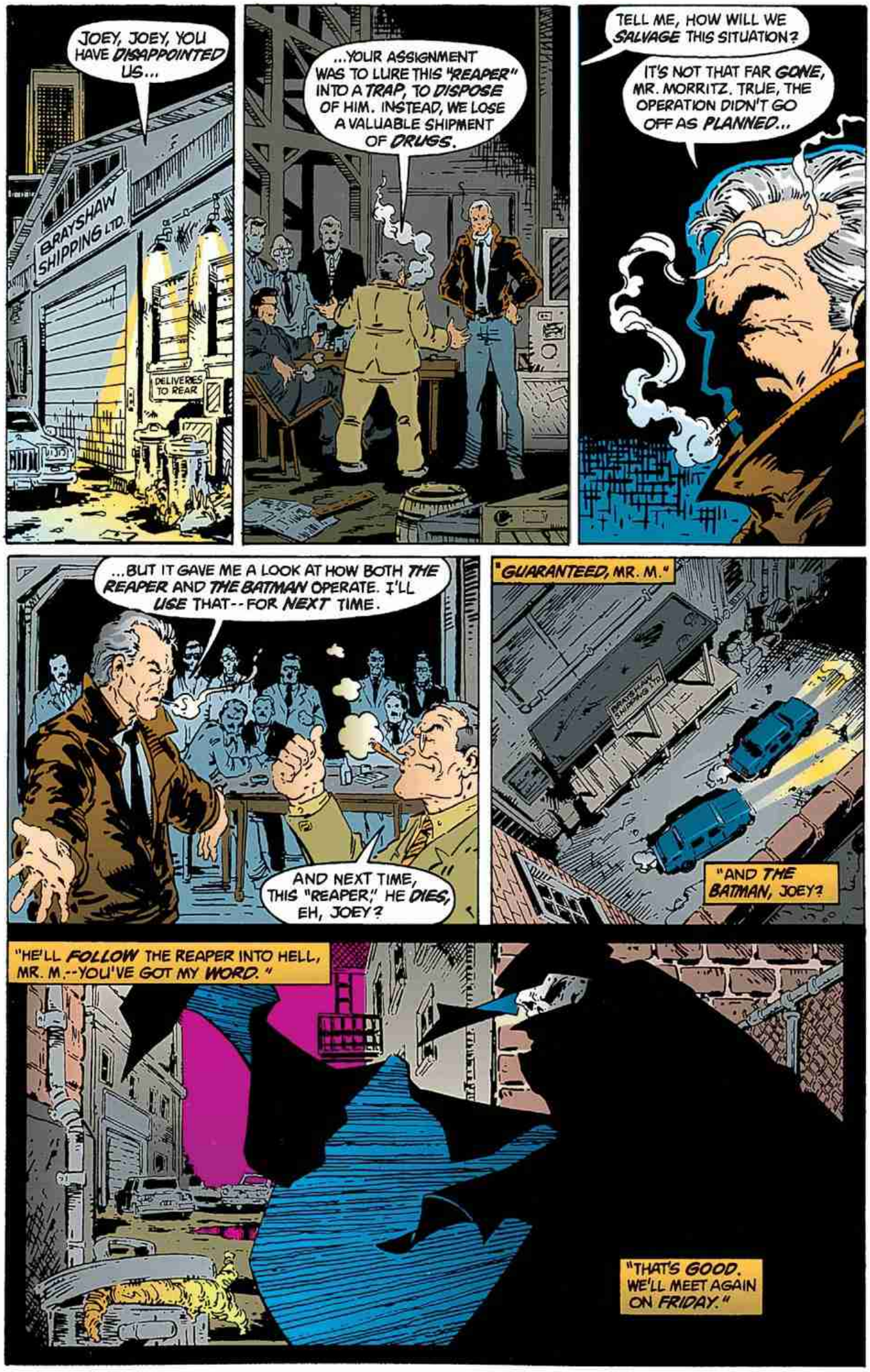
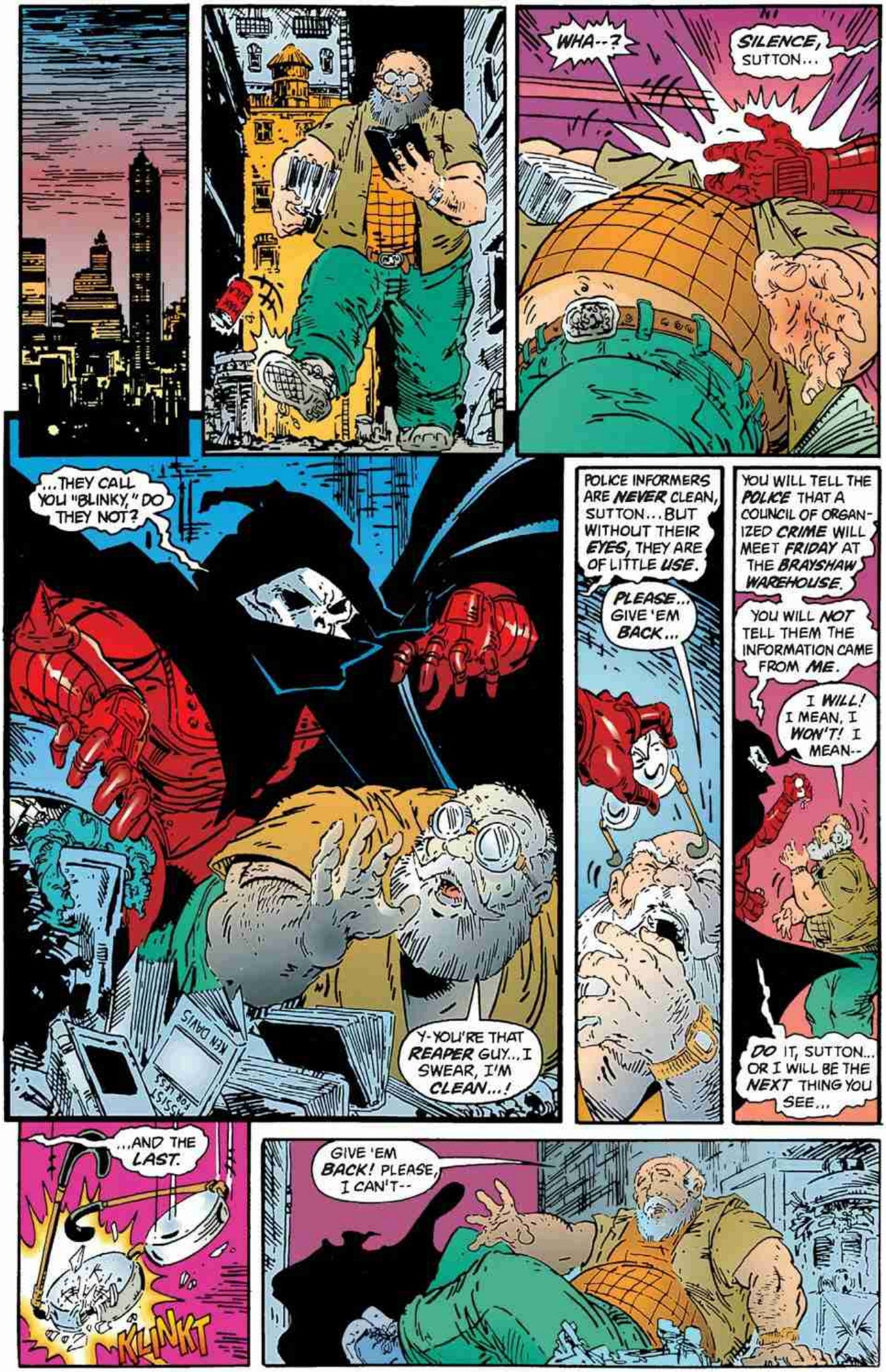

JOEY, JOEY, YOU HAVE DISAPPOINTED US...
BRAYSHAW SHIPPING LTD.
DELIVERIES TO REAR
...YOUR ASSIGNMENT WAS TO LURE THIS "REAPER" INTO A TRAP, TO DISPOSE OF HIM. INSTEAD, WE LOSE A VALUABLE SHIPMENT OF DRUGS.
TELL ME, HOW WILL WE SALVAGE THIS SITUATION?
IT'S NOT THAT FAR GONE, MR. MORRITZ. TRUE, THE OPERATION DIDN'T GO OFF AS PLANNED...
...BUT IT GAVE ME A LOOK AT HOW BOTH THE REAPER AND THE BATMAN OPERATE. I'LL USE THAT--FOR NEXT TIME.
AND NEXT TIME, THIS "REAPER," HE DIES, EH, JOEY?
"GUARANTEED, MR. M."
"AND THE BATMAN, JOEY?
"HE'LL FOLLOW THE REAPER INTO HELL, MR. M.--YOU'VE GOT MY WORD."
"THAT'S GOOD. WE'LL MEET AGAIN ON FRIDAY."


WHA--?
SILENCE, SUTTON...
...THEY CALL YOU "BLINKY," DO THEY NOT?
Y-YOU'RE THAT REAPER GUY... I SWEAR, I'M CLEAN...!
KEN DAVIS
RESIST FOR LESS
POLICE INFORMERS ARE NEVER CLEAN, SUTTON... BUT WITHOUT THEIR EYES, THEY ARE OF LITTLE USE.
PLEASE... GIVE 'EM BACK...
YOU WILL TELL THE POLICE THAT A COUNCIL OF ORGANIZED CRIME WILL MEET FRIDAY AT THE BRAYSHAW WAREHOUSE.
YOU WILL NOT TELL THEM THE INFORMATION CAME FROM ME.
I WILL! I MEAN, I WON'T! I MEAN--
DO IT, SUTTON... OR I WILL BE THE NEXT THING YOU SEE...
...AND THE LAST.
KLINK!
GIVE 'EM BACK! PLEASE, I CAN'T--

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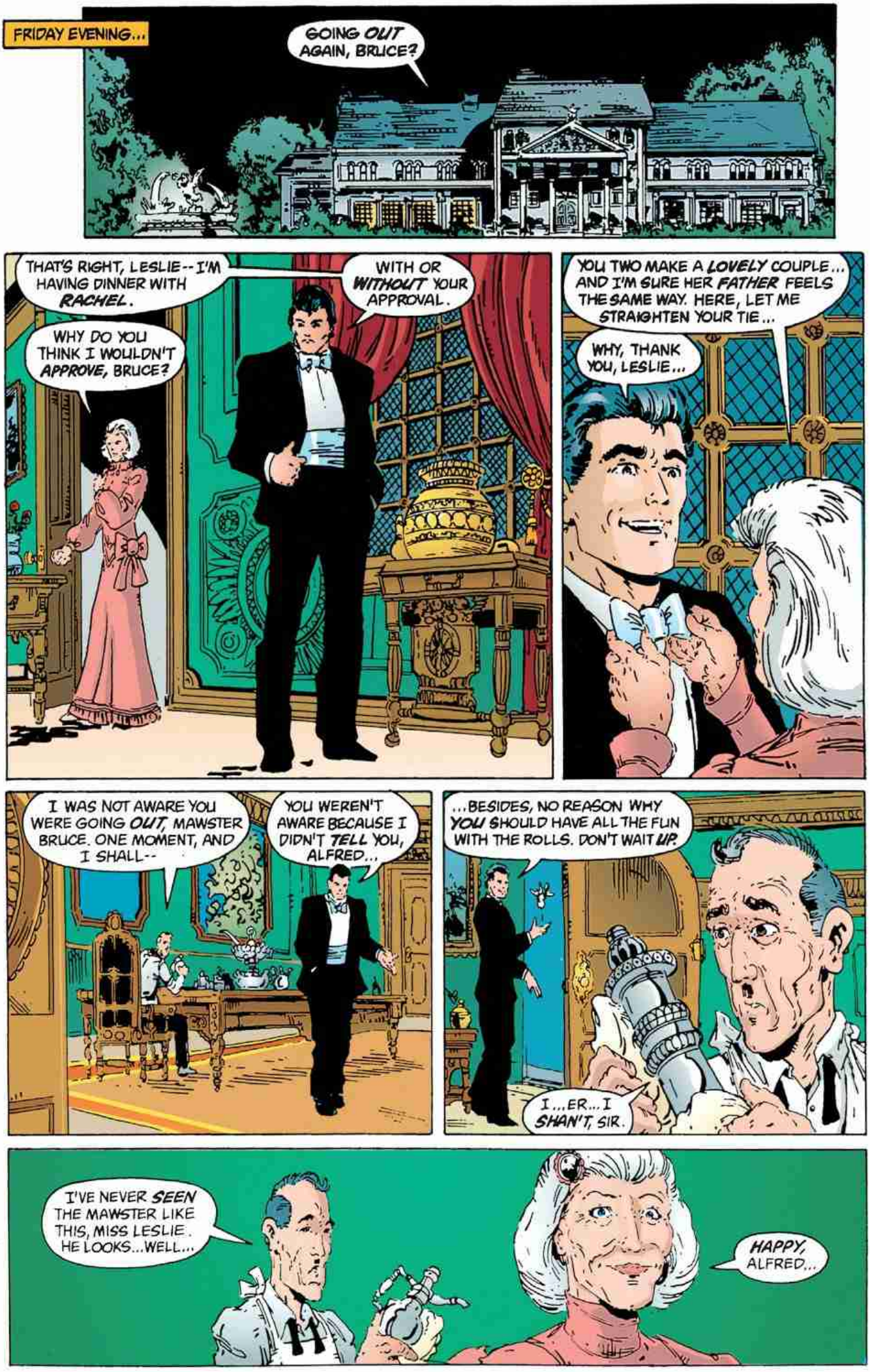
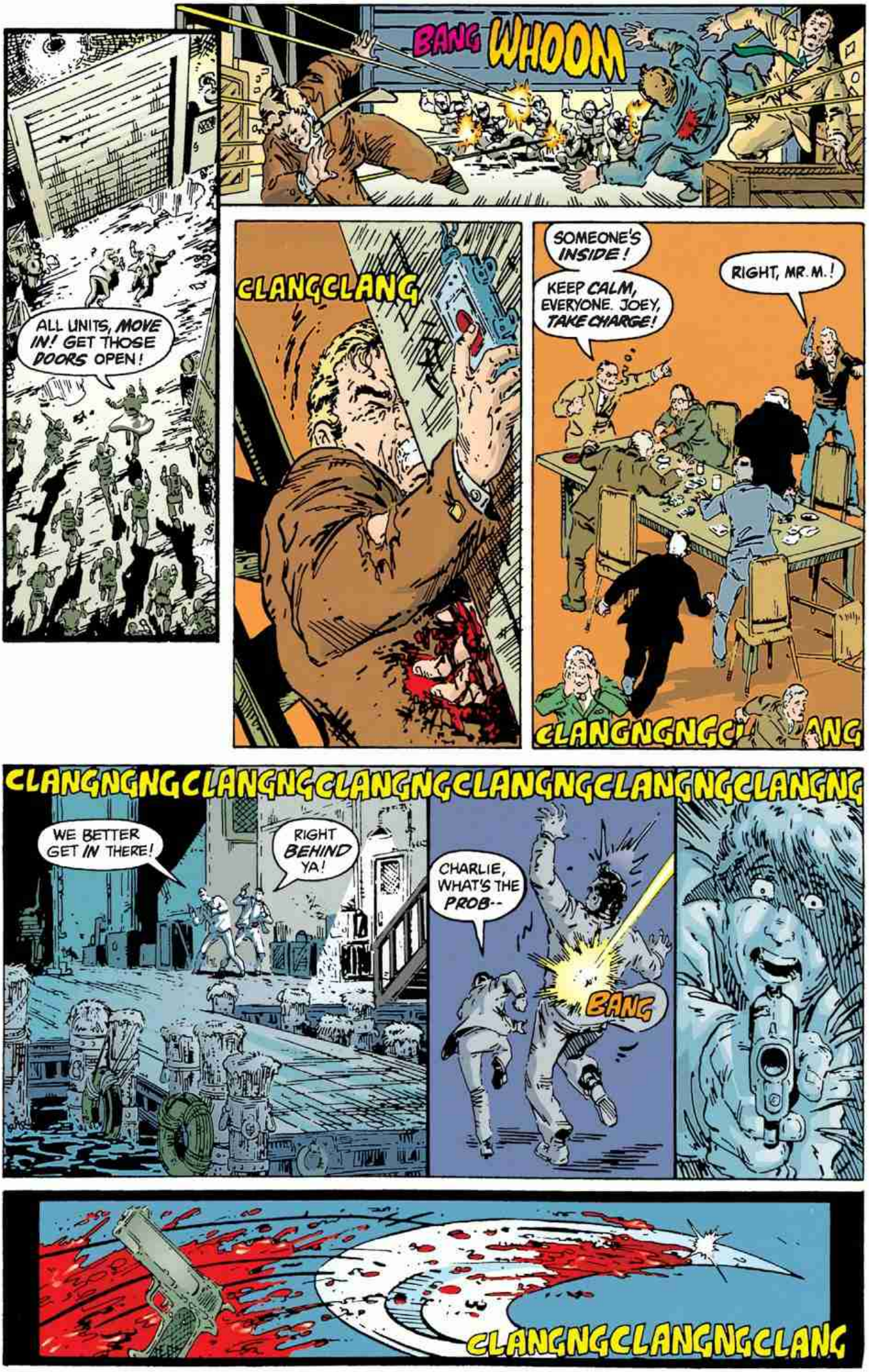
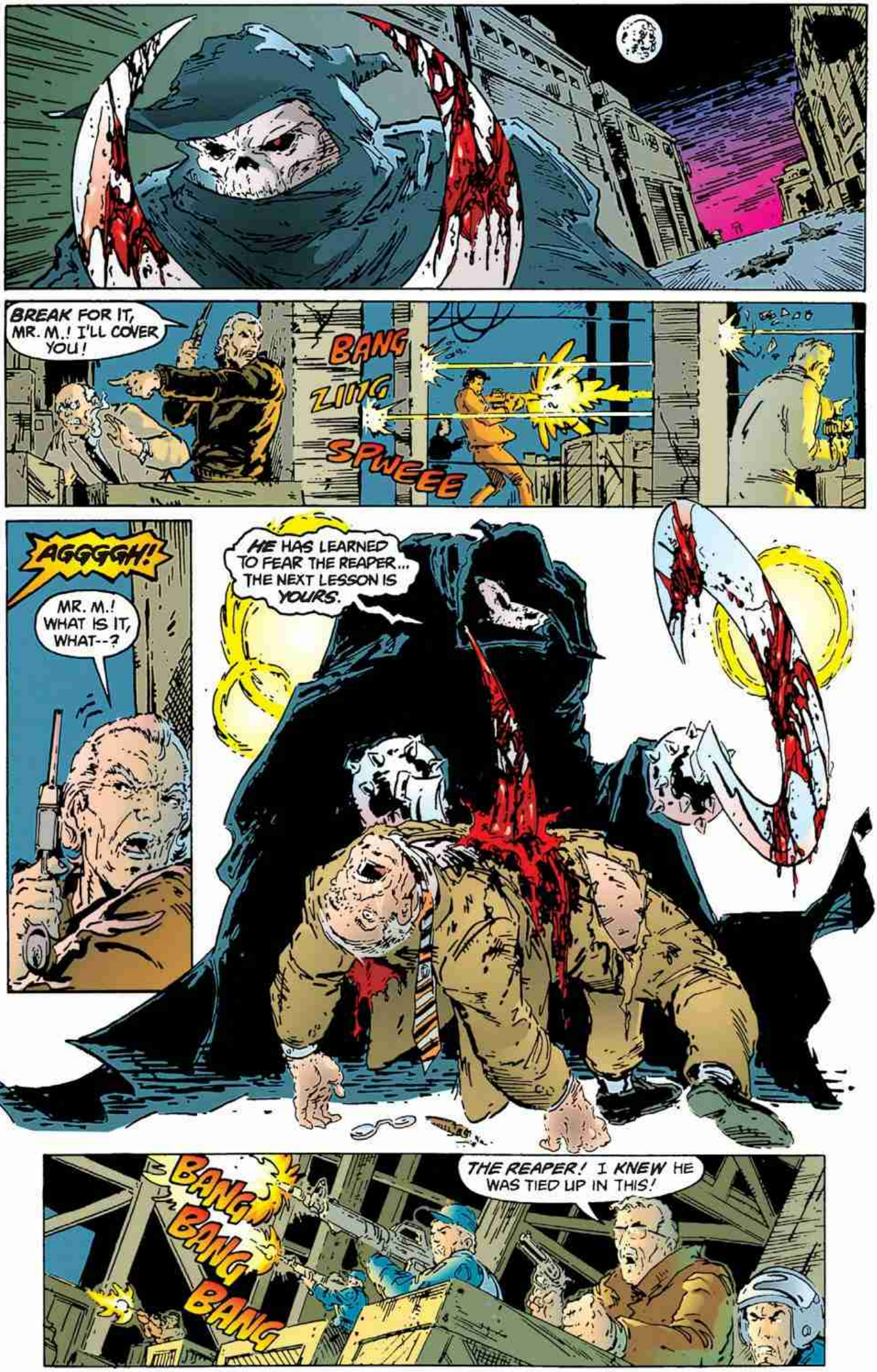

FRIDAY EVENING...
GOING OUT AGAIN, BRUCE?
THAT'S RIGHT, LESLIE -- I'M HAVING DINNER WITH RACHEL.
WITH OR WITHOUT YOUR APPROVAL.
WHY DO YOU THINK I WOULDN'T APPROVE, BRUCE?
YOU TWO MAKE A LOVELY COUPLE... AND I'M SURE HER FATHER FEELS THE SAME WAY. HERE, LET ME STRAIGHTEN YOUR TIE...
WHY, THANK YOU, LESLIE...
I WAS NOT AWARE YOU WERE GOING OUT, MAWSTER BRUCE. ONE MOMENT, AND I SHALL--
YOU WEREN'T AWARE BECAUSE I DIDN'T TELL YOU, ALFRED...
...BESIDES, NO REASON WHY YOU SHOULD HAVE ALL THE FUN WITH THE ROLLS. DON'T WAIT UP.
I...ER... I SHAN'T, SIR.
I'VE NEVER SEEN THE MAWSTER LIKE THIS, MISS LESLIE. HE LOOKS...WELL...
HAPPY, ALFRED...

"...HE LOOKS HAPPY."
I'M GLAD WE CAME HERE, BRUCE. WE NEVER HAVE CHINESE FOOD AT HOME. FATHER SIMPLY LOATHES IT.
THAT'S JUST AS WELL, RACHEL...
...I WANTED AN EVENING WITH THE TWO OF US ALONE.
OH, THAT SOUNDS SERIOUS.
EXCUSE ME, SIR-- YOUR FORTUNE COOKIES?
YES, THANK YOU...
÷GASP÷ BRUCE, LOOK, IT'S...
IT'S YOUR FORTUNE, RAE...
...PROVIDED, OF COURSE, YOU AGREE TO MARRY ME.
MARRY YOU...?
YES. YES, OF COURSE...
YOU MAY AVOID YOUR FATE BUT NEVER ESCADE IT

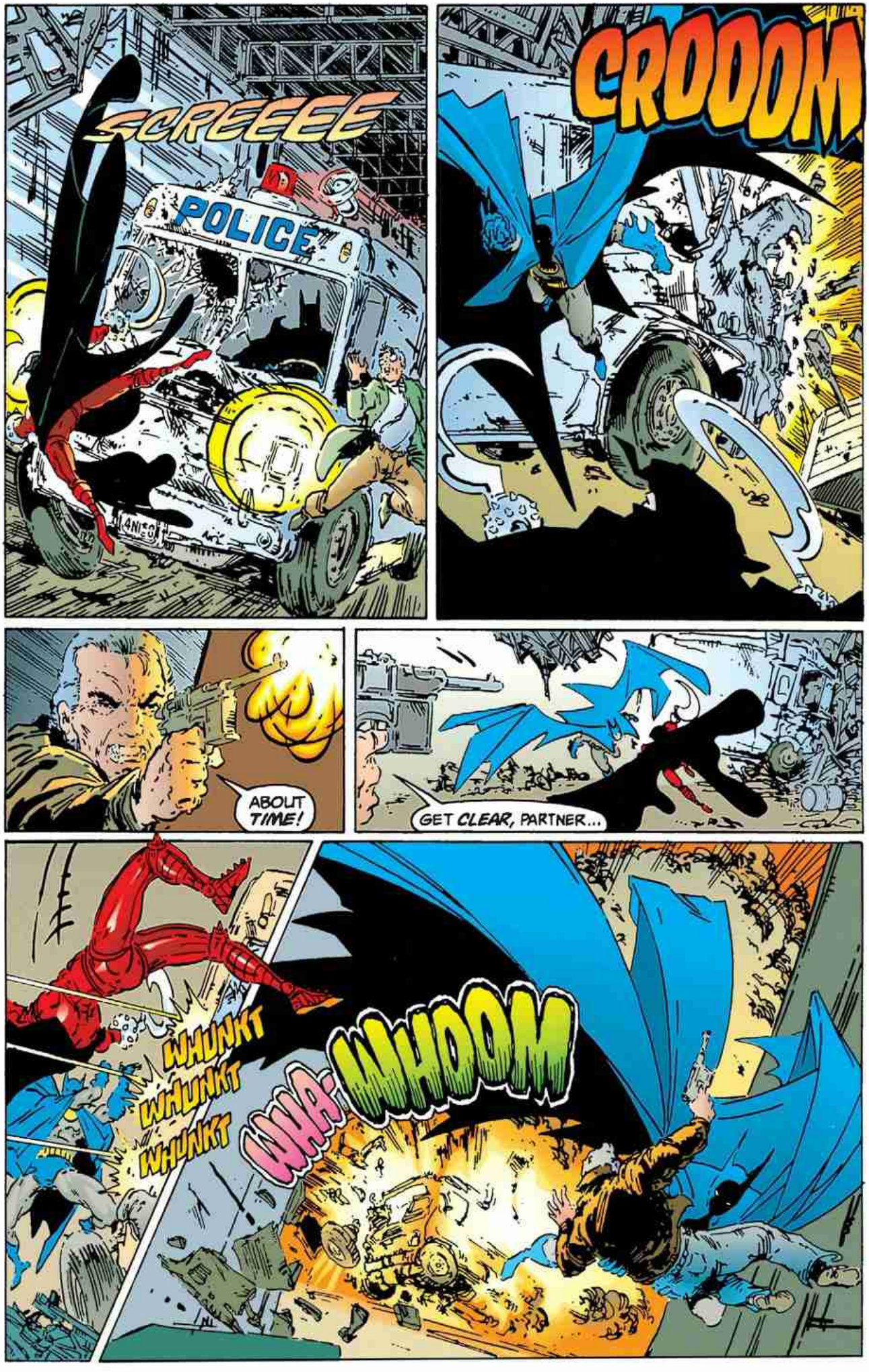
BRAYSHAW SHIPPING LTD
YOU LOOK LIKE A MAN WITH SOMETHING ON HIS MIND, LIEUTENANT.
YESSIR...THIS ALL SEEMS A LITTLE TOO EASY, SOMEHOW. WHAT IF IT'S A TRAP, OR--?
IF IT IS A TRAP, THEY'RE USING GRADE-A BAIT. I HAVEN'T SEEN SUCH A COLLECTION OF BAD TALENT SINCE CAPONE'S FUNERAL.
I ADMIT THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG ABOUT IT, BUT IT'S A CHANCE WE CAN'T PASS UP.
THIS IS GORDON. COMMENCE OPERATION. REPEAT, COMMENCE.
PHLIT
PHLIT
OPERATION COMMENCED, COMMISSIONER. THE DOOR IS OPEN.


ALL UNITS, MOVE IN! GET THOSE DOORS OPEN!
BANG WHOOM
CLANGCLANG
SOMEONE'S INSIDE!
KEEP CALM, EVERYONE. JOEY, TAKE CHARGE!
RIGHT, MR. M.!
CLANGNGNGC ANG
CLANGNGNGCLANGNGCLANGNGCLANGNGCLANGNGCLANGNGCLANGNG
WE BETTER GET IN THERE!
RIGHT BEHIND YA!
CHARLIE, WHAT'S THE PROB--
BANG
CLANGNGCLANGNGCLANG


BREAK FOR IT, MR. M.! I'LL COVER YOU!
BANG
ZING
SPWEEE
AGGGGH!
MR. M.! WHAT IS IT, WHAT--?
HE HAS LEARNED TO FEAR THE REAPER... THE NEXT LESSON IS YOURS.
BANG BANG BANG
THE REAPER! I KNEW HE WAS TIED UP IN THIS!

LOOKS LIKE THE END TO THIS MAY COME SOONER THAN I--
THERE! I TOLD YOU IT WAS HIM!
ZINNG
SPNEE
BANG
HE'S DODGING, KEEP THAT LIGHT ON HIM, KEEP--
WE LOST HIM! THE COMMISSIONER AIN'T GONNA LIKE--
LOOK OUT--!
KRISSSH

VROOOM
THAT'S ONE OF OURS! DON'T HE SEE US?
HE SEES US, ALL RIGHT...
POLICE
CROOOM
...BUT HE AIN'T TAKIN' ANY PASSENGERS!



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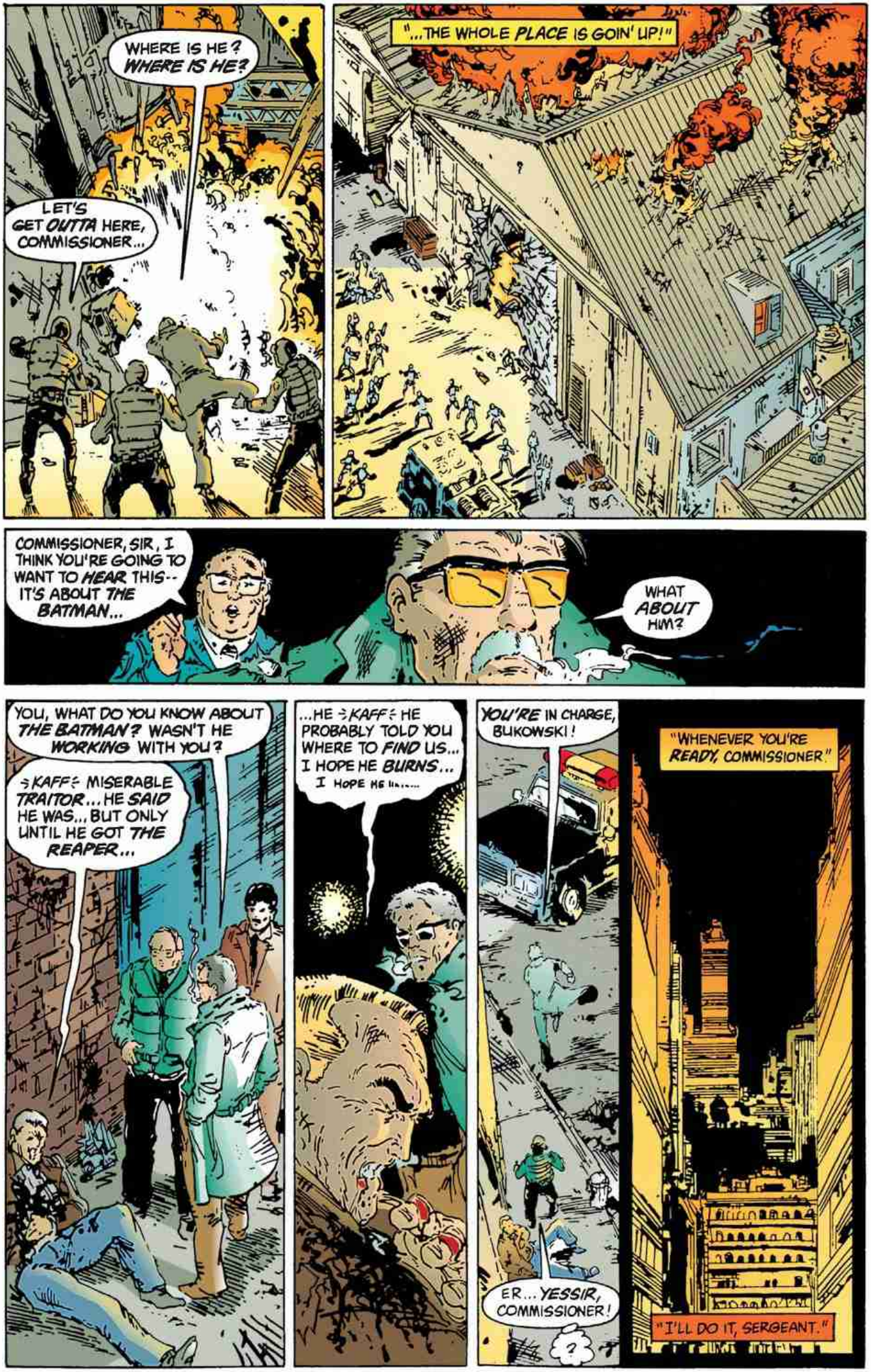
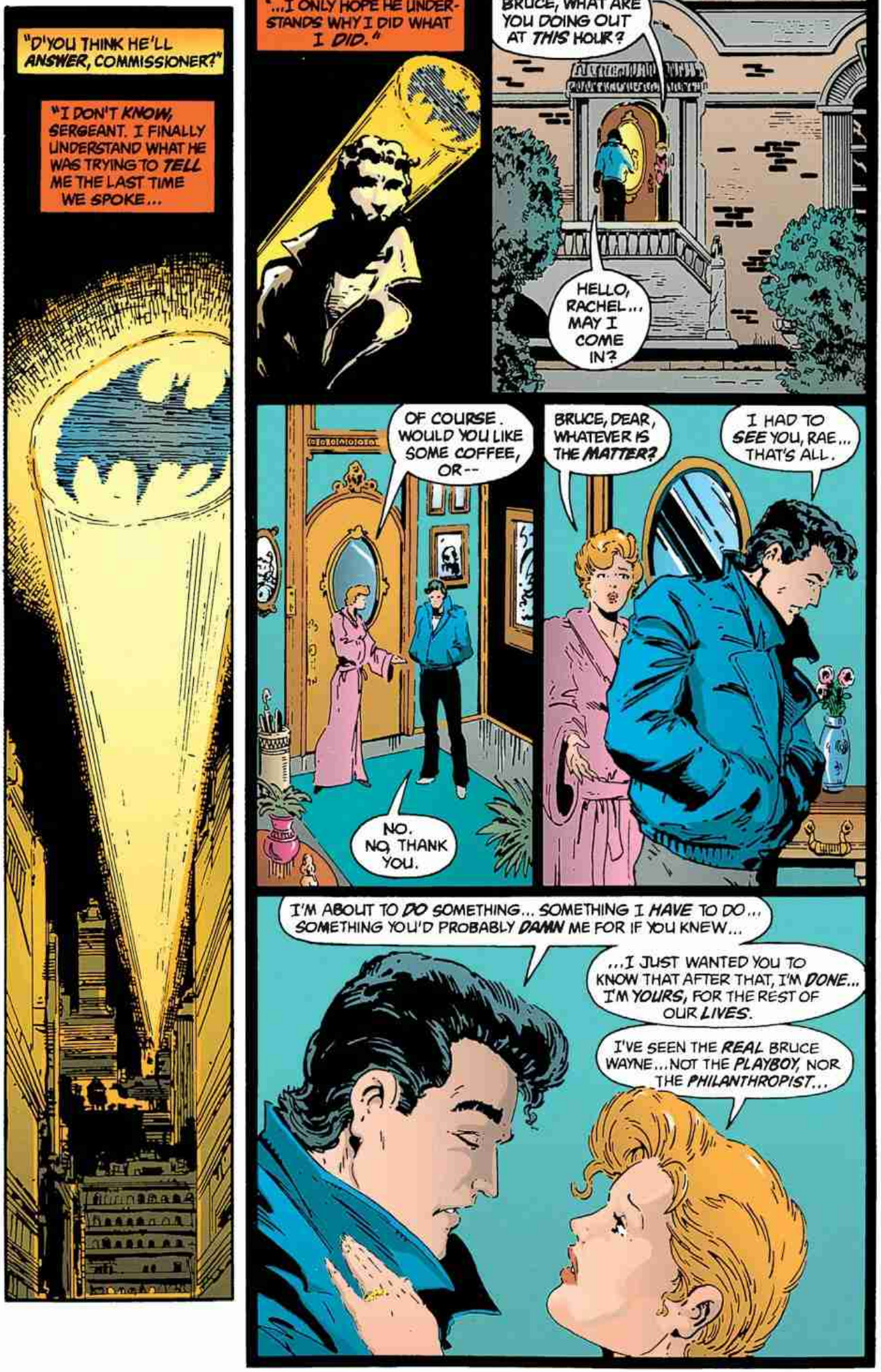
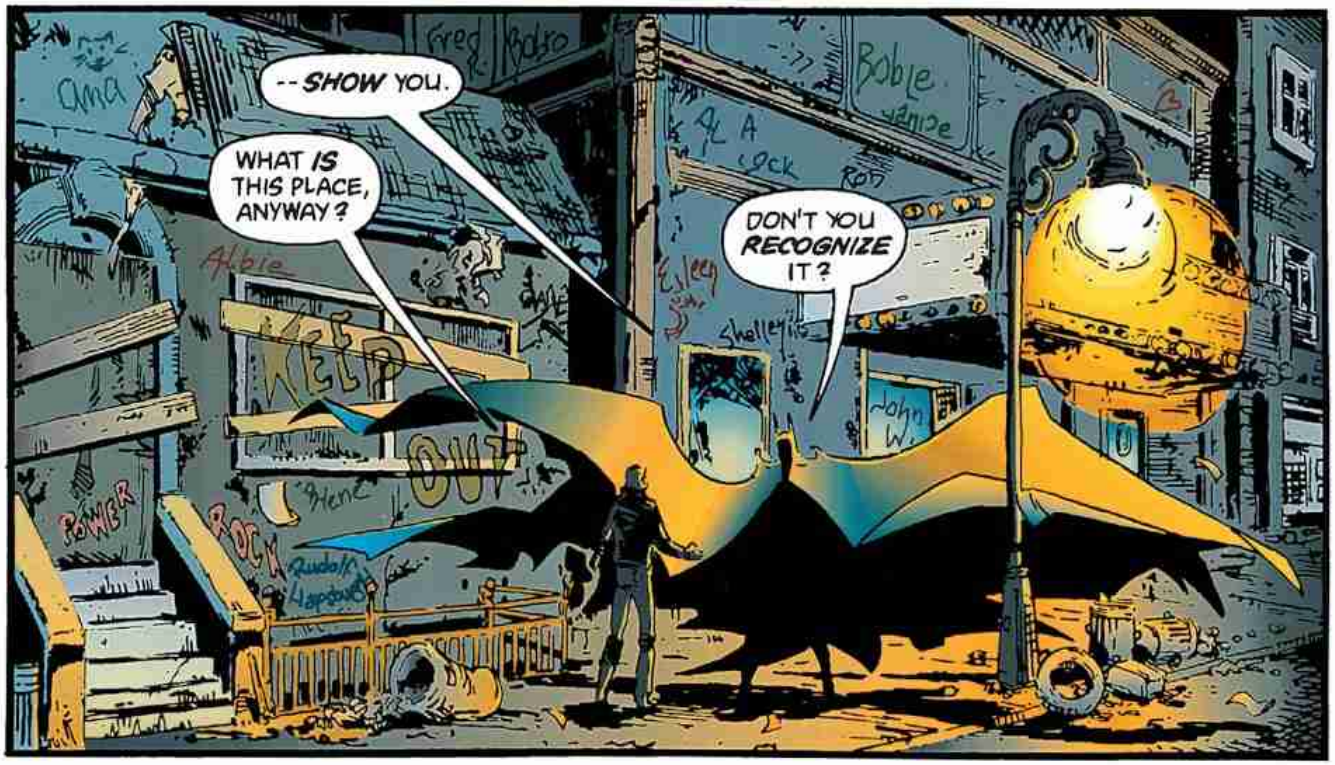

WHERE IS HE? WHERE IS HE?
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE, COMMISSIONER...
"...THE WHOLE PLACE IS GOIN' UP!"
COMMISSIONER, SIR, I THINK YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO HEAR THIS-- IT'S ABOUT THE BATMAN...
WHAT ABOUT HIM?
YOU, WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE BATMAN? WASN'T HE WORKING WITH YOU?
÷KAFF÷ MISERABLE TRAITOR... HE SAID HE WAS... BUT ONLY UNTIL HE GOT THE REAPER...
...HE ÷KAFF÷ HE PROBABLY TOLD YOU WHERE TO FIND US... I HOPE HE BURNS...
I HOPE HE
YOU'RE IN CHARGE, BUKOWSKI!
ER... YESSIR, COMMISSIONER!
?
"WHENEVER YOU'RE READY, COMMISSIONER."
"I'LL DO IT, SERGEANT."


"D'YOU THINK HE'LL ANSWER, COMMISSIONER?"
"I DON'T KNOW, SERGEANT. I FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT HE WAS TRYING TO TELL ME THE LAST TIME WE SPOKE...
"...I ONLY HOPE HE UNDERSTANDS WHY I DID WHAT I DID."
BRUCE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT AT THIS HOUR?
HELLO, RACHEL... MAY I COME IN?
OF COURSE. WOULD YOU LIKE SOME COFFEE, OR--
NO. NO, THANK YOU.
BRUCE, DEAR, WHATEVER IS THE MATTER?
I HAD TO SEE YOU, RAE... THAT'S ALL.
I'M ABOUT TO DO SOMETHING... SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO... SOMETHING YOU'D PROBABLY DAMN ME FOR IF YOU KNEW...
...I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT AFTER THAT, I'M DONE... I'M YOURS, FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES.
I'VE SEEN THE REAL BRUCE WAYNE...NOT THE PLAYBOY, NOR THE PHILANTHROPIST...

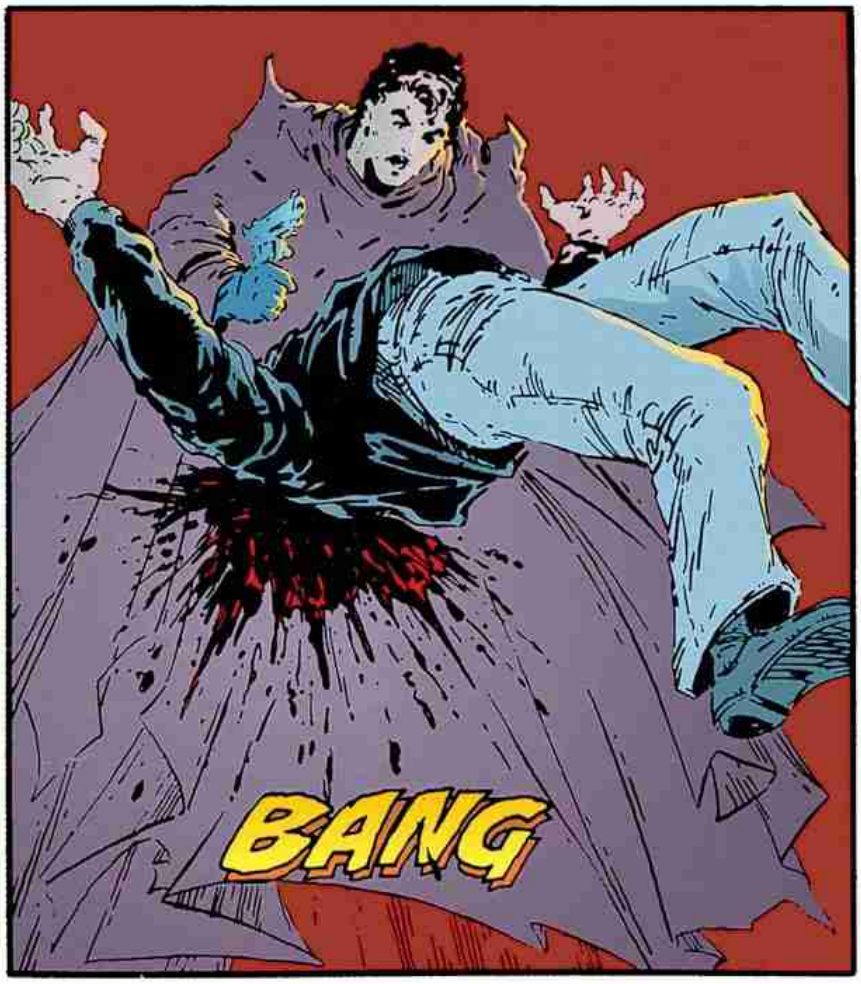
...AND I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT MAN WOULD EVER DO ANYTHING HE KNEW TO BE WRONG.
RACHEL, WHAT IF--
HUSH NOW, DEAR. GO AND DO WHAT YOU MUST. I'LL BE HERE.
UNHHHH

WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU WERE KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS BY THE EXPLOSION. I BROUGHT YOU HERE-- A HIDEOUT OF MINE.
MISTER M.?
DEAD. MOST OF THE BOSSES ARE WITH HIM.
AND THE REAPER?
DEAD.
JUST MY LOUSY LUCK. I'D BETTER GET OUTTA HERE, BEFORE ANY OF THE HIRED HELP TALK.
NOT JUST YET.
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GONNA GIVE ME A HARD TIME. THEY WANTED ME TO ICE YOU, YEAH, BUT THERE'S NO POINT NOW.
WHAT SAY WE SHAKE HANDS AND CALL IT QUITS?
COME WITH ME, CHILL. I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO--

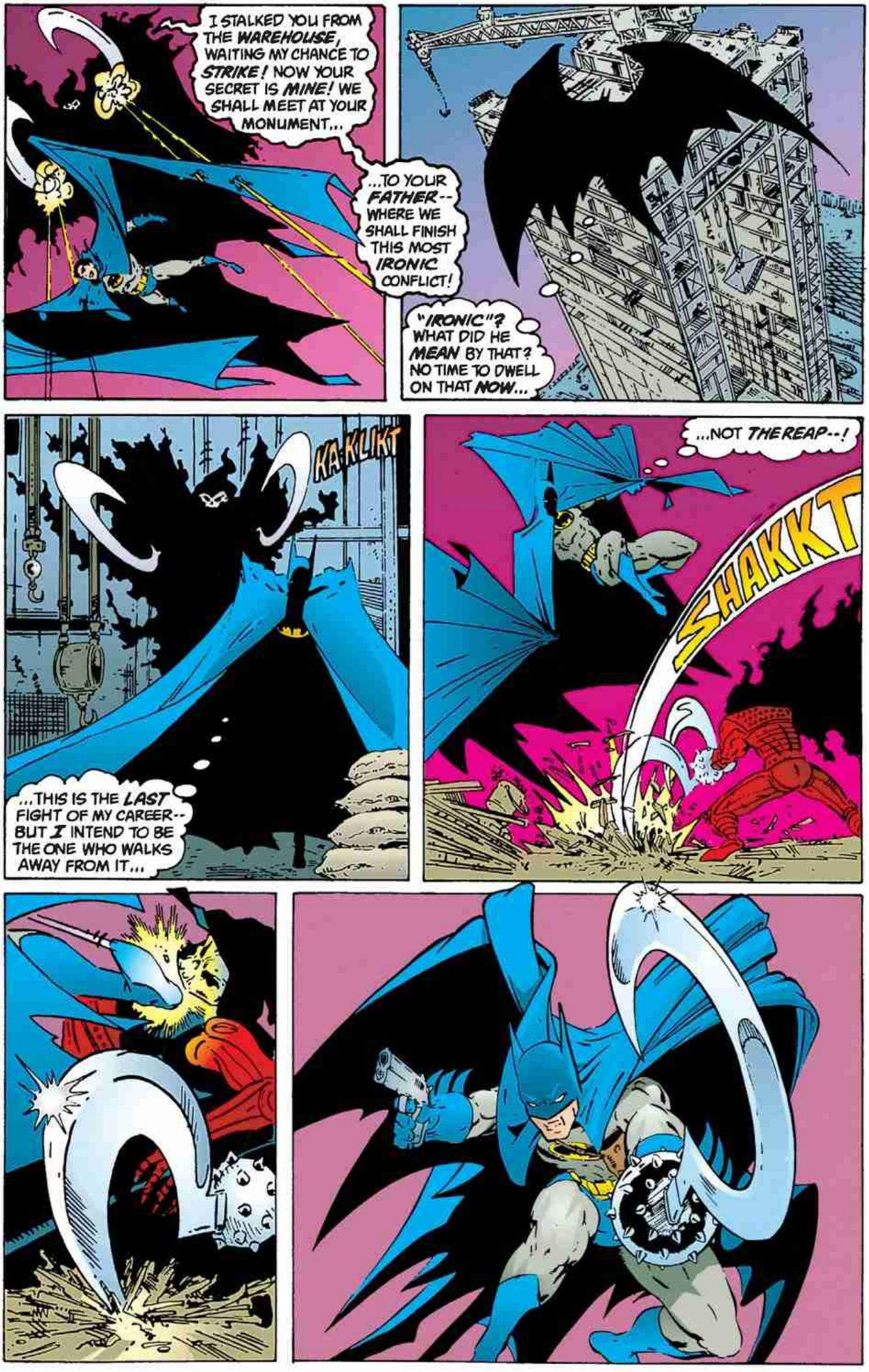

-- SHOW YOU.
WHAT IS THIS PLACE, ANYWAY?
DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE IT?
HELP
OUT
POWER
ROCK

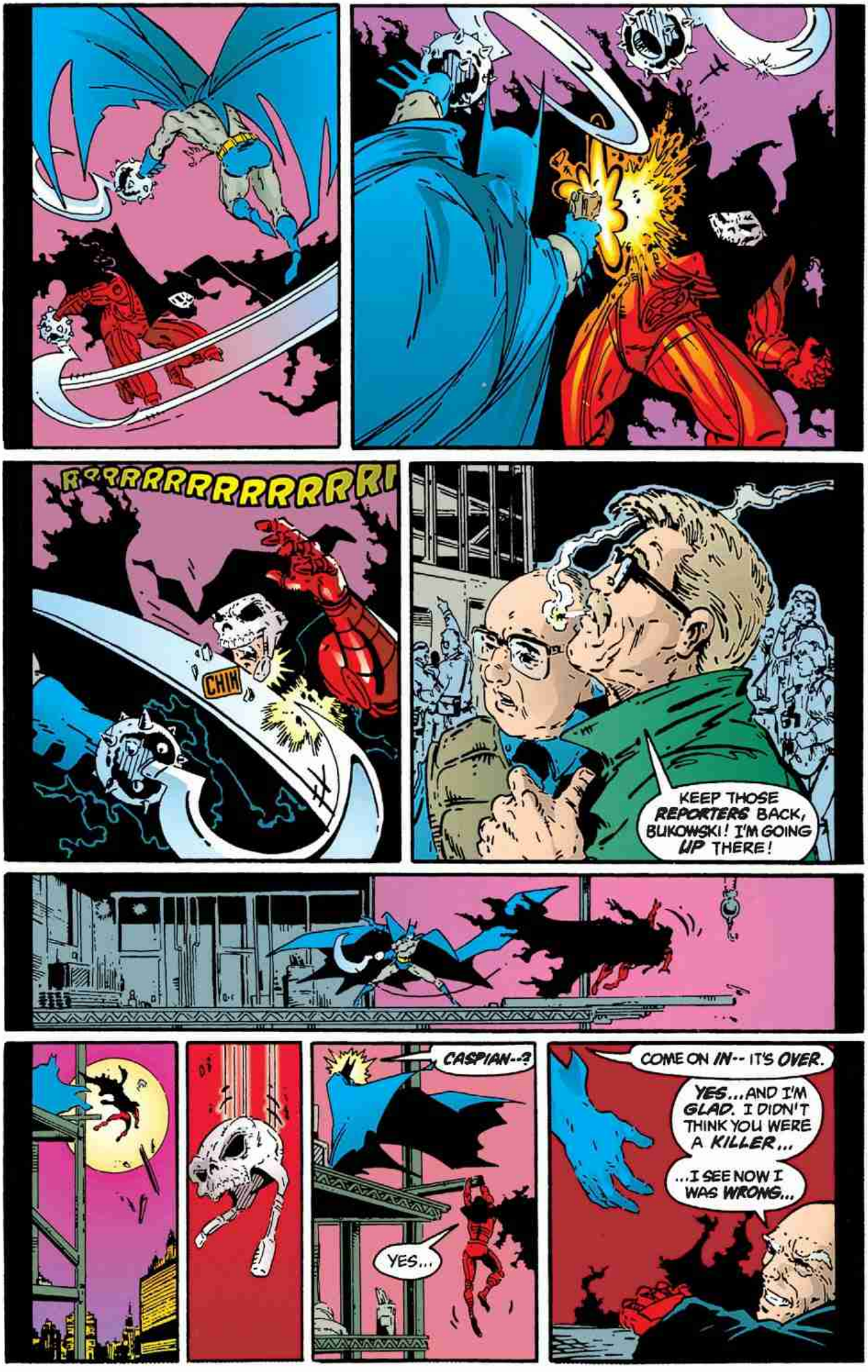
SHOULD I?
YOU'VE BEEN HERE, CHILL. IT WAS TWENTY YEARS AGO...
"...YOU TRIED TO TAKE A NECKLACE FROM A WOMAN. HER HUSBAND TRIED TO STOP YOU...
"...AND YOU KILLED THEM."
THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY! HOW DO YOU KNOW?
HOW? BECAUSE I WATCHED YOU, CHILL...
...BECAUSE I'M THEIR SON!
YOU?

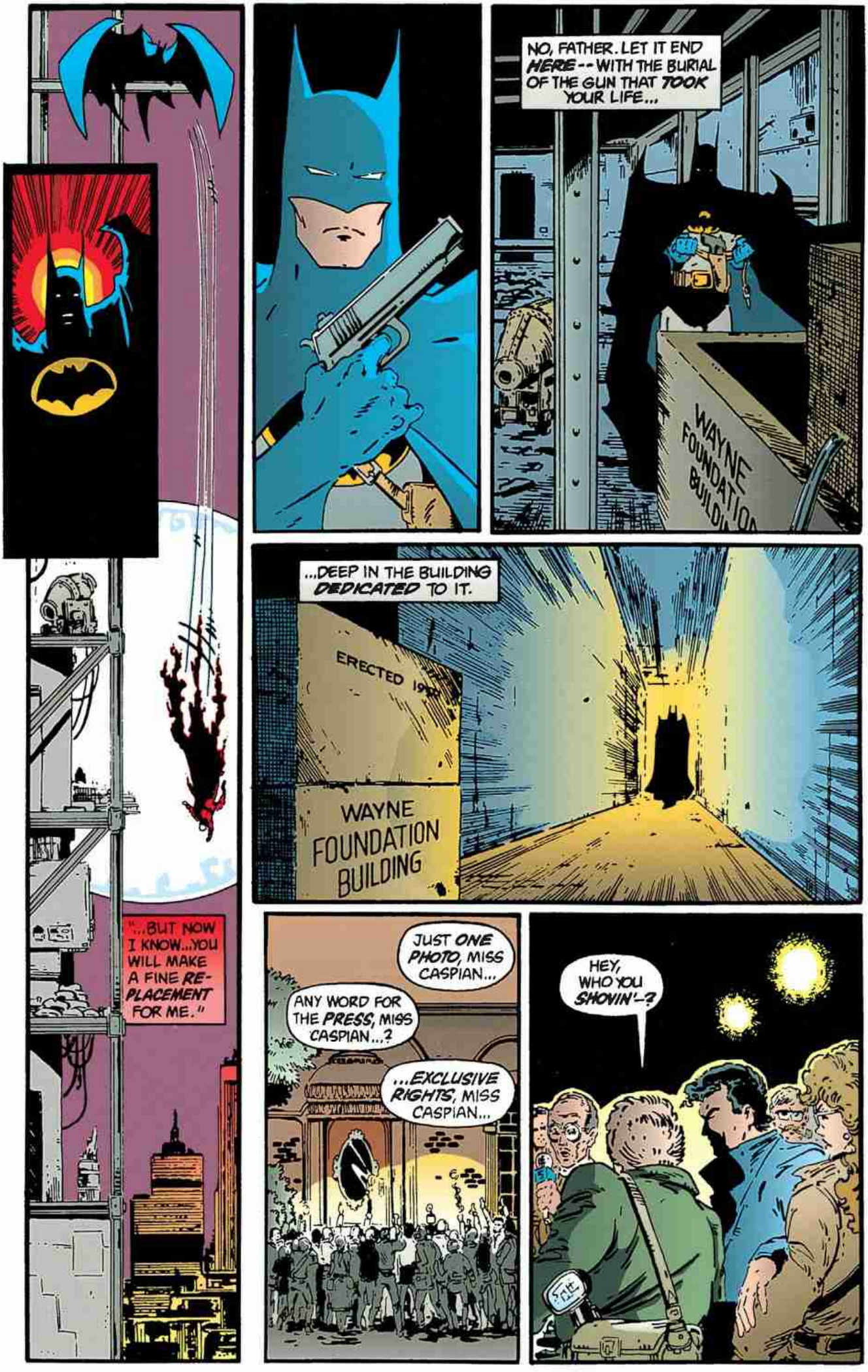
NO GUNS, CHILL... JUST THIS ONE--THE GUN YOU KILLED THEM WITH!
THAT'S THE ONLY GUN YOU'RE GOING TO TOUCH...
WHERE DO YOU WANT IT, CHILL? IN THE HEART, LIKE THEM? BEHIND THE EAR? IN THE MOUTH?
JUST DO IT-- IF YOU CAN! I DON'T THINK YOU CAN!
NO?
WELL?


BANG

HAHAHAHA HAHAHA


I STALKED YOU FROM THE WAREHOUSE, WAITING MY CHANCE TO STRIKE! NOW YOUR SECRET IS MINE! WE SHALL MEET AT YOUR MONUMENT...
...TO YOUR FATHER-- WHERE WE SHALL FINISH THIS MOST IRONIC CONFLICT!
"IRONIC"? WHAT DID HE MEAN BY THAT? NO TIME TO DWELL ON THAT NOW...
KA-KLIK!
...THIS IS THE LAST FIGHT OF MY CAREER-- BUT I INTEND TO BE THE ONE WHO WALKS AWAY FROM IT...
...NOT THE REAP--!
SHAKK!


RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
CHIH
KEEP THOSE REPORTERS BACK, BUKOWSKI! I'M GOING UP THERE!
CASPIAN--?
YES...
COME ON IN-- IT'S OVER.
YES...AND I'M GLAD. I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE A KILLER...
...I SEE NOW I WAS WRONG...


"...BUT NOW I KNOW...YOU WILL MAKE A FINE RE-PLACEMENT FOR ME."
NO, FATHER. LET IT END HERE--WITH THE BURIAL OF THE GUN THAT TOOK YOUR LIFE...
WAYNE FOUNDATION BUILDI
...DEEP IN THE BUILDING DEDICATED TO IT.
ERECTED 19
WAYNE FOUNDATION BUILDING
JUST ONE PHOTO, MISS CASPIAN...
ANY WORD FOR THE PRESS, MISS CASPIAN...?
...EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS, MISS CASPIAN...
HEY, WHO YOU SHOVIN'-?

BRUCE... MY FATHER... HE WAS... HE...
I KNOW, RACHEL...
...BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER. WE CAN GO AWAY FROM ALL THAT, SOMEPLACE WHERE--
BRUCE, DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND...? HE WAS MY FATHER...
...I HAVE TO MAKE AMENDS FOR WHAT HE DID...
...BRUCE, I'M SORRY...
I DO UNDERSTAND, RACHEL...
"...GOOD-BYE."

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BRUCE, WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE...?
YOU'LL SEE, LESLIE...
BRUCE, WHAT IS THIS...?
JUST WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE, LESLIE...
...A PLACE FOR YOU TO DO YOUR WORK, WHILE I'M OUT DOING MINE.
THOMAS WAYNE MEMORIAL CLINIC
DR. LESLIE THOMPKINS, DIRECTOR
THANK YOU...
I ONLY HOPE IT MAKES YOU HAPPY, LESLIE.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, BRUCE? ARE YOU HAPPY?
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
WAIT FOR MISS THOMPKINS, ALFRED.
BUT, SIR, YOU--
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, ALFRED. IT'S GETTING DARK...